

500 feared killed in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (Agencies) — A double-decker river boat carrying about 1,000 people capsized and sank during a storm, and a reporter said Monday more than 500 people were feared killed. The vessel sank Sunday night in the Meghna River near the town of Barisal, 227 kilometres south of Dhaka. Officials in Barisal told the AP by telephone that rescue workers recovered 76 bodies and that many more bodies apparently were swept downstream. The officials said they expected to find more bodies in the hull of the sunken vessel. The officials said two large rescue vessels went to the scene of the accident to conduct the salvage operation. Maimul Hussain, a reporter for Ittefaq, a Bengali-language daily, telephoned his office in Dhaka and said not more than 200 people had been able to swim to safety after the boat sank. He said at least 500 people were feared dead.

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Fayez receives results of IPU talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker and Speaker of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) Akef Al Fayez on Monday received a cable from the Ecuadorian Parliament Speaker, informing him of the results of an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference held in the Ecuadorian capital of Quito. In his cable to Mr. Fayez, the Ecuadorian speaker conveyed the greetings of all parliamentarians taking part in the conference and best wishes for Jordan. Among the main subjects of discussion during the IPU conference was drug trafficking which will also be a major issue on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting which will be held in Argentina.

Bhutto aide denies Zia's charges

LONDON (R) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's campaign to unseat President Zia ul Haq is not being financed by India, Libya or the Soviet Union as the president has suggested, a spokesman for Ms. Bhutto said Monday. Nasim Ahmad told Reuters in London that Ms. Bhutto had authorised him categorically to deny General Zia's allegation earlier this month that Ms. Bhutto's campaign for democracy in Pakistan was being financed by the three countries. Ms. Bhutto, the daughter of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, has addressed huge rallies since she returned last month to Pakistan from more than two years of European exile.

E. Germany adopts new entry rule

BERLIN (AP) — East German officials turned back three Western diplomats when they tried to enter West Berlin without showing their passports as required under a new rule, spokesmen for the three countries' embassies said. East Germany informed Western embassies last week of a change in border procedures for their diplomats accredited in East Berlin. Under the change, the diplomats will have to show their passports, rather than just an East German-issued identification card, when passing into and out of the western sector of the divided city. British, French and U.S. diplomats of the three Western allies that control West Berlin were apparently exempted from the new East German passport policy, a U.S. official said.

Chernobyl death toll rises to 19

MOSCOW (R) — The death toll from the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station has risen to 19, a senior Soviet scientist said Monday. Yevgeny Velikhov, vice-president of the Academy of Sciences, told a news conference the figure included two people who died in the initial accident and 17 others. About 300 further people were injured by the accident, which occurred a month ago when one of the station's four reactors caught fire and sent radiation particles across the western Soviet Union and Europe (Radiation remains high around Chernobyl, page 8).

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King pays tribute to Tafileh

King opens Rashidieh housing project and polytechnic institute

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday paid high tribute to citizens from the Tafileh Governorate saying they had always stood firm, faithful and loyal to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

The King, addressing a large gathering of Tafileh citizens who assembled to greet him on a visit to the governorate, described Tafileh as the "original Arab fortress, just like Jordan, which stands firm in countering all challenges and dangers."

"The Arab citizen is threatened in his own homeland over his rights, identity and future hopes," the King said. "Through determination, loyalty, honesty and awareness we can go a long way in serving the Arab citizens in the Great Arab Homeland," he said.

The King said he derived his strength from his belief in God first and then in the people, objectives and aims of the Jordanian family. His actions and efforts towards achieving Arab solidarity, the King said, are based on his belief in God and in the message of Arab unity and cohesion.

The King said the Jordanian Armed Forces is the army of the Great Arab Revolt and an extension of the Arab army which struggled for the freedom of the Arab Homeland.

The King thanked the Tafileh citizens for the warm welcome they accorded to him during his visit and expressed pride in and appreciation of the governorate's steadfastness.

Accompanying King Hussein to Tafileh on Monday were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali and a number of cabinet members.

King Hussein was received upon arrival in Tafileh by Deputy Governor Rafeb Al Majali, governorate deputies and a number of senior government officials.

During his visit to Tafileh, the King laid the foundation stone for a new building to house the Tafileh Governorate offices. The building is expected to cost about JD 206,000. The King also inaugurated a 39-unit housing project for the staff of South Cement

Company in Rashidieh. The project's cost is estimated at JD 1,200,000.

King Hussein then proceeded to a village where he inaugurated a JD 1,612,000 polytechnic institute which can accommodate 720 students.

Deputy Governor Majali presented the King with the governorate's shield and briefed him on the governorate's development plans.

Speakers at the gathering welcomed the King and expressed appreciation for his directives aimed at upgrading the level of services in the governorate.



His Majesty King Hussein shakes hands with schoolchildren during a visit he paid to Tafileh on Monday (Petra photo)

New European plan said to be in offing to end Lebanese strife

BEIRUT (AP) — France, West Germany and the Vatican were reported Monday to be working on a plan to resolve Lebanon's civil war, release all foreign hostages and abolish Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The report appeared in the Beirut independent newspaper An Nahar as an anonymous telephone caller told the rightist Voice of Lebanon radio station that Islamic Jihad will free two French hostages on Monday.

But as the day drew toward an end, there was no word that any Frenchman has been released. All previous claims made on behalf of Islamic Jihad to rightist radio stations in Beirut were proven wrong.

An Nahar quoted unnamed informed Western sources as saying the upcoming European initiative would be based on three main guidelines:

— The release of all foreign hostages and termination of the activity of extremist groups in Lebanon;

— Laying down "security arrangements" between Lebanon and Israel under which U.N. peacekeeping forces and the Lebanese regular army would take

control of South Lebanon. This envisages the abolition of Israel's "security zone" that stretches from the Mediterranean coast to the foothills of Mount Hermon and a cessation of Shi'ite guerrilla activity throughout the region;

— Recognition of Syria's central role in Lebanon conditional on amendments to make a peace pact mediated by Syria among Lebanon's three main militias last December acceptable to both Muslims and Christians through a new power-sharing formula.

Islamic Jihad, believed made up of Shi'ite fundamentalists loyal to Iran's revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has long claimed it held four French and five American hostages kidnapped over the last two years.

It said it killed French research analyst Michel Saurat last March and U.S. embassy political officer William Buckley last October. But their death could not be confirmed.

The three other French captives it holds are Marcel Fontaine, 45, vice-consul at France's embassy in Beirut, Marcel Carton, 62, the embassy protocol officer and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffman, 42.

The four other Americans in

Islamic Jihad's captivity are Associated Press chief Middle East correspondent Terry A. Anderson, 38, Roman Catholic priest Lawrence Jenao, 50, director of the American University Hospital David Jacobson, 54, and acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut Thomas Sutherland, 54.

Five other Frenchmen have been kidnapped in Lebanon — a four-man crew of France's Antenne 2 television station and an 85-year-old retired car dealer.

In addition to the Americans and Frenchmen, two Britons, one Italian, one Irishman, one South Korean and two Cypriots are missing in Lebanon.

The pro-Libyan Beirut magazine Al Shiraa said on Saturday three French and three American hostages would be freed soon, without identifying them or give any further details.

The Beirut newspaper As Safir said the same day agreement has been reached to release eight French hostages in two batches within nine days.

It said the first four-man batch would be freed in 48 hours, or by midnight Monday, and the rest a week later. It did not elaborate.

2 killed in third blast in E. Beirut in 3 days

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A mother and son were killed by a bomb explosion in mainly Christian east Beirut on Monday as fighting flared anew at Palestinian camps in the western sector of the city.

The violence sent the Lebanese pound plummeting to 32 to the dollar — its fifth record low in a week that has seen renewed sectarian fighting break an uneasy truce called for the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Lella Allam, 37, and her son Riad were killed and five people injured when about 10 kilograms of dynamite exploded in front of a lift in a high-rise building, radios reported.

The blast was the third in east Beirut in three days. It badly wounded another of Mrs. Allam's children and seriously damaged the building and several cars parked outside.

The bombed building faced a beer brewery across the street and overlooked a seaside highway that was crowded with traffic. Panicky motorists slammed into each other's bumpers as they tried to escape from the scene.

Bourj Al Barajneh fighting

In west Beirut, Shi'ite militiamen and Palestinian fighters fought with heavy machine-guns and anti-tank grenades around the Palestinian refugee camp of Bourj Al Barajneh, security officials reported.

No casualties were reported, but the nearby airport road was closed to traffic after two people on it were wounded by sniper fire. The road was later reopened.

Monday's clashes ended a 24-hour lull in fighting at the camp, one of three in Beirut.

In South Lebanon, a patrol of French U.N. peacekeeping troops was ambushed by unidentified gunmen who fired an anti-tank grenade and machine-guns, but there were no casualties, a spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said.

The attack north of an Israeli-declared border "security zone" was the second on French nationals in a week.

Last Tuesday, gunmen forced down a helicopter taking off with two visiting French parliamentarians and the French ambassador aboard. No-one was hurt.

Shara's refutes reports of Syrian role in attacks, page 2

Israel rejects Thatcher call for W. Bank elections

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel on Monday rejected a proposal by visiting British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to hold municipal elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, responsible for "administering" the occupied territories, told Mrs. Thatcher hours before she met Palestinian leaders from the areas that he did not believe elections would help bring peace.

Mrs. Thatcher had urged Israeli leaders to allow the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza to elect mayors as a way of encouraging new Palestinian leadership.

Municipal elections in 1976 brought to power mayors who backed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Many were deposed five years later by Israel for not cooperating with military authorities.

"I said that it looks very strange that the first place in the whole Arab World that there will be free elections will be under so-called Israeli military occupation while in all the Arab countries there is not one elected mayor," Mr. Rabin contended in remarks made to reporters after meeting Mrs. Thatcher.

Later, at a meeting of the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, Mrs. Thatcher stated her support for a renewed Middle East peace initiative.

"Obviously we cannot have peace without security in Israel," she told reporters after the meeting. "But Israel is not giving up hope and neither am I. Everyone would like a solution to this problem and we must try again."

Prime Minister Shimon Peres has said that "terrorism" would deter "moderate" Arabs from negotiating peace with Israel. But Mrs. Thatcher was quoted by a British official as disagreeing. "To say that would be to abandon hope, and we are quite used to this situation in Northern Ireland."

Mr. Peres told parliament at a special session in honour of Mrs. Thatcher that he had discussed with her ways to revive the stalled peace initiative.

"Even if we don't always agree on the means, I don't believe the good will that the British prime minister brings to our region in an effort to revive the peace process," he said.

Mrs. Thatcher told reporters Sunday that she would meet with His Majesty King Hussein in London next month to brief him on her talks in Israel.

Mrs. Thatcher was to meet with a group of eight Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza later on Monday.

They were Hanna Simora, editor of the daily Al Fajr, Bethlehem

(Continued on page 2)

because it went beyond an earlier one by the late leader Konstantin Chernenko in 1984 that was limited only to medium-range missiles.

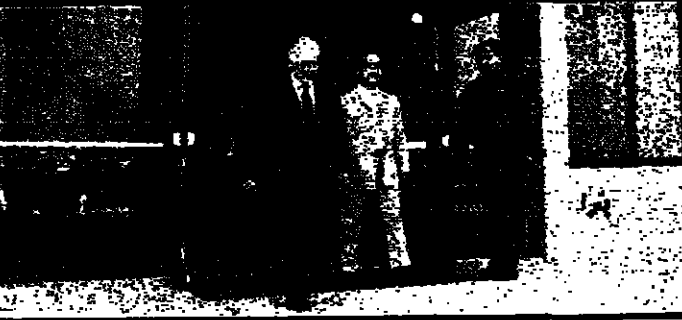
Mr. Gorbachev also renewed his proposal for Britain and France to freeze their nuclear forces as part of a deal with the United States to scrap their "Euro-missiles," Mr. Whitelaw said.

Britain and France have refused the plan.

Mr. Whitelaw, who held a 30-minute meeting alone with Mr. Gorbachev, said the Soviet leader also called on Britain to help bring about a ban on chemical weapons and stressed Moscow's readiness to allow inspection to ensure compliance.

Gorbachev warns against attack

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday warned of "incalculable consequences" if Syria or Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) bases came under attack, British parliamentarians said. Labour Party foreign affairs spokesman Denis Healey said Mr. Gorbachev gave the warning at a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister William Whitelaw and other parliamentarians (See story below). "He said that if there was an attack on Syria or PLO bases outside Israel then it could have incalculable consequences," Mr. Healey said, quoting Mr. Gorbachev. The Soviet media have been reporting that the United States or Israel could be planning an attack against Syria or the PLO similar to the U.S. bombing raid on Libya last month. Mr. Healey quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying the United States and its allies were trying to prevent Moscow from playing a constructive role in the Middle East.



His Majesty King Hussein is seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials upon his departure on Monday for Baghdad (Petra photo)

King visits Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein held talks on Monday shortly after the King's arrival here on a short working visit.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, Armed Forces Deputy Commander-in-Chief General Adnan Khattallah, Interior Minister Sa'adoun Shaker and Minister of Information Latif Jasssem.

On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri in addition to the Jordanian ambassador to Iraq.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, did not give details of the talks but it said in an earlier dispatch that bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Arab World were expected to be the focus of the Jordanian-Iraqi summit.

It was also believed that ways and means to convene an early Arab summit was a topic to be discussed by the King and President Hussein. Petra said in a dispatch from Tunis that Iraq had informed the Arab League headquarters that Baghdad will send its foreign minister to a preparatory Arab foreign ministers' meeting to pave the way for an Arab summit.

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President Hussein and senior Iraqi officials received the King and the delegation accompanying him upon their arrival at Baghdad. Later, the King, Prime Minister Rifai, Mr. Odeh and Mr. Masri were the guests of honour at an Iftar banquet hosted by President Hussein.

Petra did not give the duration of the King's visit to Baghdad, but it was expected that he would return to Amman late Monday after the talks.

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Arms sales battle 'is likely to damage' U.S.-Saudi ties

By Gene Gibbons
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Despite public insistence that nothing has changed, U.S. and Saudi officials agree that relations between their countries are likely to be weakened, perhaps permanently, by last week's big arms sale controversy.

"It's going to be a long-term thing," said one U.S. official. "Clearly, congressional reluctance to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia has already affected (Riyadh's) decision-making."

A plan by the administration to sell \$354 million worth of advanced missiles to Saudi Arabia was rejected by Congress earlier this month. President Reagan tried to save the sale last Wednesday by vetoing the so-called resolution of disapproval but it remains unclear whether he will succeed.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes and Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, have said the controversy will not affect the bonds of friendship between their countries.

However, Saudi and U.S. officials noted that Riyadh originally wanted to buy 60 F-15 jet fighters

in addition to anti-aircraft and anti-ship missiles and opted instead for British-built Tornado planes when it became clear that its request would provoke an American political fight.

"That decision effectively exported 120,000 American jobs to Britain," said a State Department official involved in the arms sale squabble.

The same official said the economic consequences of the Tornado purchase could continue to grow.

"If you're going to have to get your military hardware elsewhere, you might also shop elsewhere for your civil engineering and other non-lethal imports," he said.

According to U.S. government estimates, Saudi Arabia has spent \$50 billion in the United States since the start of a defence relationship during World War II.

Military hardware accounted for

only about 10 percent of that sum.

The remainder has been spent on airports, hospitals, highways and other public works supervised by the U.S. army corps of engineers, officials say.

Administration fears that the relationship might be jeopardised were heightened when Prince Bandar said on Tuesday that the kingdom would "as a matter of principle" continue to supply its armed forces with the latest in military technology.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Asked if that meant the Saudis would buy arms elsewhere if the United States refused to supply them, Prince Bandar said people could draw their own conclusions. "If our relationship is based solely on our supplying them with our most advanced weaponry, then it is not much of a relationship," said a top aide to Senator Alan Cranston, a California Democrat who has been a leading critic of the sale.

In an attempt to ease worries that the weapons could reach anti-U.S. elements, Saudi Arabia agreed on Tuesday to do without 800 shoulder-fired Stinger anti-aircraft missiles that were to have

been part of the deal.

Left in the package were 1,800 Sidewinder air-to-air and Harpoon anti-ship missiles to be added to existing Saudi stocks.

White House sources told Reuters that Saudi Arabia's King Fahd offered to cancel the entire sale to avert further political embarrassment to Mr. Reagan.

They said King Fahd was told such a move would be seen as a defeat for the president and removal of the Stingers would ensure enough votes to overturn the congressional ban.

However, Mr. Reagan and his advisers apparently did not anticipate that a showdown on the issue would be delayed until after a 10-day congressional recess, prolonging the controversy and giving opponents time to regroup.

The key vote on whether to uphold Mr. Reagan's veto of the congressional ban — and so allow the scaled-down sale to proceed — is scheduled for June 5.

If the Senate votes to override the veto the matter will be sent to the Democratic-led House of Representatives, where feeling against the sale is even stronger and where a vote to override would doom the deal forever.

S. Yemen opposition denies meeting with Bush

BEIRUT (AP) — Sources close to South Yemen's deposed President Ali Nasser Muhammad were reported Monday to have denied that his senior aides met with U.S. Vice President George Bush, who promised them military assistance to regain power.

The Beirut newspaper As Safir said the denial came in a statement issued in Damascus, the Syrian capital, by an unidentified "source close to the former South Yemeni president."

The statement said the reported meeting with Bush in the North Yemen capital of Sanaa last April 11 was "fabricated to sabotage efforts to restore national unity in South Yemen."

The meeting report was published Saturday by the independent Beirut newspaper An Nahar. It said Mr. Bush promised military and material assistance to help Mr. Muhammad's loyalists wrest back power from Soviet-backed Marxist militants in the Red Sea republic.

Mr. Muhammad was deposed last January. He has since been living in a self-chosen exile in Ethiopia and maintains liaison offices in Sanaa and Damascus.

An Nahar also quoted unnamed informed Arab sources in Beirut and Paris as saying Mr. Bush had also offered \$300 million worth of military assistance to North Yemen in exchange for U.S. military facilities in that country.

The report was published Saturday. An Nahar's Arab affairs editor Kheirallah Kheirallah said the Bush move could be a "turning point in the U.S. concern in that area, especially in view of the persistent power struggle in Aden."

Kheirallah said it could not be determined whether Mr. Muhammad had personally met with Mr. Bush, but he said aides did.

Mr. Muhammad made several trips to Sanaa from Aden since his downfall and his followers use North Yemen as their main base to prepare for a comeback.

Although Mr. Muhammad was a Soviet ally, his senior aides in North Yemen have been advocating a switch to the United States, contending Moscow had let them down in the January power struggle with Marxist militants, according to Kheirallah.

An Nahar said the meeting of Mr. Muhammad's aides with Mr. Bush was also attended by North Yemen's Interior Minister Hajj Abdullah Barakat, security chief Hajj Muhammad Abdullah Saleh, brother of North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the unnamed chief of Saudi Arabia's secret service.

"Bush promised to extend military and material assistance to opposition groups which left with the deposed president and are now stationed on the common border of the two Yemenes," An Nahar said.

Shara'a refutes reports of Syrian role in Rome and Vienna attacks

WASHINGTON (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara'a has said reports linking Syria to the December attacks on Rome and Vienna airports were "absolutely false."

Interviewed by a U.S. television programme via satellite, Mr. Shara'a also denied his country had any connection to international terrorism.

"We are totally confident that no Syrians are involved in such terrorist acts," Mr. Shara'a said.

He also rejected the idea that Syria closed down the Damascus office of the Abu Nidal Palestinian group, which has also been linked by U.S. officials to the airport attacks.

"This is our business," he said. "The Palestinian offices in Damascus have nothing to do with terrorism."

The U.S. government lists Syria as a nation that supports "international terrorism" and has asked it to oust Abu Nidal.

The New York Times reported last week Italian officials told the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that the sole gunman to survive the airport attacks confessed he had been trained and transported for the mission by Syrian agents.

Mr. Shara'a called the charges part of a "racist campaign" by the United States aimed at pressuring Arab states to change their policy on Israel and diverting attention from the problems of Palestinians in the area.

"It is important as far as we are concerned to make it clear to everybody that the root causes of terrorism in the region must be remedied," he said.

Despite Washington's close alliance with Israel, Mr. Shara'a said he believes U.S.-Syrian relations can be improved.

"I think the first thing to be done is that the American administration should pursue a dialogue with Syria on equal footing," he said.

The Syrian government is doing all it can to try to win the release of American and French hostages still being held in Lebanon, but the recent U.S. air strike against Libya "complicated the issue," Mr. Shara'a said.

He did not comment on Lebanese press reports of a possible release of at least some of the hostages.

Two U.S. lawmakers, who appeared on the same programme, said they foresaw the possibility of Syria because of its alleged link with "terrorism."

Democratic Senator Christopher Dodd said he would like to see President Reagan urge America's European allies to join the United States in sanctions against Syria as it has attempted to do against Libya.

Republican Senator Orrin Hatch said: "We can't just sit back and let this continue because there's no question that Syria's involved in terrorism."

Gen. Tewfik said about 15 of the followers of 55-year-old Basili fled to the mountains while others rejoined the pro-government troops, the official militia in the Kurdish regions of northern Iraq.

Originally nomadic tribes, there are 3.5 million Kurds in the Iraqi regions, five million in north-western Iran, and about nine million in eastern Turkey, in addition to others in north-eastern Syria and Soviet Armenia.

The KDP, led by Masud Barzani, said in its May 17 statement that the rebels were threatening Duho. Reporters who toured Duho saw no signs of any military activity.

The Kurdish rebels, fighting for autonomy against the Baghdad government, have been supported by Iraq's war foe Iran.

The army helicopter that took the reporters to Mangesh had to make an emergency landing on a busy highway north of Baghdad, blocking traffic.

Gen. Tewfik said the KDP, led by Masud Barzani, had offered to aid Basili but its combatants were not active in the rebellion.

He called Basili a "troublesome man" who once led a pro-Iraqi government "light battalion" of Kurdish warriors and at one stage refused to obey army orders.

"We tried to solve the problem peacefully," said Gen. Tewfik. "But Basili refused. He was once with us... but suddenly he switched to the bad side about three or four months ago."

Later, a group of reporters were taken by army helicopters to Mangesh, where about 2,500 inhabitants live. There were no signs of shooting except two empty AK-47 automatic rifle bullet cases on the main street.

Women and men took to the streets, led by Hanna Killo, Mangesh's Chalchale bishop.

The new Kurdish leaders in this mixed Christian-Muslim village, welcomed Arab and Western reporters and escorted them in a tour of it.

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Row erupts over Israeli security chief's role in killing Palestinians

TEL AVIV (R) — A row erupted in Israel Monday over attempts by Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir to prosecute the chief of Israel's Internal Security Services over the 1984 deaths of two captured Palestinians.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres cited security reasons for opposing Zamir's attempts to press charges for unspecified "serious crimes" against Avraham Shalom, head of the Shin Bet Security Service, informed sources said.

Military censors partly lifted a ban on information about the case Monday after several newspapers

and a television network in the United States reported on the subject.

Zamir's attempts to prosecute Shalom are linked to the deaths in April 1984 of two of four commandos who hijacked a packed civilian bus from southern Israel to the Gaza Strip, informed sources said.

The army initially said all four hijackers and one Israeli passenger were killed when troops stormed the bus, but an investigation later found two of the commandos, died at the hands of their captors shortly after the mil-

itary action.

The issue was discussed in Israel's 10-man inner cabinet Sunday but details were banned from publication.

Israeli media gave wide coverage Monday to a report on the American ABC Television network which said Zamir wished to prosecute Shalom for covering up the case.

ABC said its correspondent in Israel was prevented by censors from filing the story and that the network obtained its information elsewhere.

Mr. Sokomagu, a founder member of the ruling Vanuatu Party, said the government moves would affect Vanuatu's efforts to promote itself as a major world tax haven.

Mr. Sokomagu is a ceremonial head of state, but has considerable influence among his people as a member of the traditional council of chiefs and adviser to the cabinet.

"The government's decision to set up diplomatic relations has caused grave concern in many neighbouring countries in the Pacific and much more at home," Mr. Sokomagu said.

"I am concerned over the impact it will have on the business sector, especially the finance centre, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

Churches

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Laweideh. Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 678906.

Anglican Church of the Redeemer. Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 773561.

St. Raphael Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiail, Tel. 67534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Samir). Tel. 811295.

Religious Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman. Tel. 669574.

Prayer times

05:54 Sunrise

12:33 Noon

16:14 Sunset

19:36 Maghreb

21:12 Midnight

Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Medaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:00 Korea

15:30 Cartoons and children programme

16:25 Scientific programme

16:50 Arabic Series

17:30 Programme on Ramadan

18:30 Ramadan contest

18:35 Ramadan puzzle

18:50 Arabic Series

19:30 Religious programme

20:00 News in Arabic

20:35 Arabic Series

21:30 Islamic programme

22:15 Tomorrow's programmes

22:30 Arabic Series

23:00 News Summary in Arabic

23:10 Varieties programme

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 X1 (French)

19:00 News in French

19:15 News in French

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Comedy: Amman's

21:00 Jordanian artist

21:10 The Brief

22:00 News in English

22:30 Ramadan in the World

23:35 The Equalizer

RADIO JORDAN

8.7 KHz. AM & 9.4 KHz. FM & partly on 9.90 KHz. SW 77111-19

07:00 Light Music

07:30 News Desk

08:00 Morning Show

08:30 News Summary

09:00 Morning Show Contd.

10:00 Pop Session Contd.

10:30 News Summary

11:00 Pop Session Contd.

11:30 News Summary

12:00 Pop Session Contd.

12:30 News Summary

13:00 Pop Session Contd.

13:30 News Summary

14:00 Pop Session Contd.

14:30 News Summary

15:00 Country Music

15:30 Concert Hour

16:00 News Summary

16:30 Instrumentals (My World)

17:00 Old Favourites

17:30 Science Report

18:00 News Summary

18:30 Top Twenty

19:00 Newsdesk

19:30 Date with a Star

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

(Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzium, Jabal Laweideh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of items of military equipment dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

CIRCUS

Romanian Circus daily at Al Hussein Sports City.

VIDEO

"Ange et demon" at 4.00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

The ABC News at 5.00 p.m. at the American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre 64371

American Centre Library 641520

British Council 636147-8

French Cultural Centre 637009

Goethe Institute 644203

Soviet Cultural Centre 641993

Spanish Cultural Centre 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre 639777

Haya Arts Centre 645195

Hussein Youth City 647181/86

Y.W.C.A. 664251

Amman Municipal Library 637111

University of Jordan Library 843555

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (08) 53200-5; where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:45 Agaba (RU)

10:35 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU)

10:45 Jeddah (RU)

10:55 Cairo (RU)

11:00 Damascus (RU)

11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RU)

11:45 Dhahran, Kuwait (RU)

12:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RU)

12:30 Moscow (RU)

12:45 Cairo (MS)

13:30 Baghdad (IA)

14:35 Kuwait (KU)

14:40 Riyadh (SV)

14:50 Larnaca (RU)

15:30 Cairo (RU)

15:30 New York, Vienna (RU)

15:55 Paris, Brussels (RU)

16:25 Athens (RU)

16:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RU)

16:50 Zurich, Larnaca (RU)

17:30 Rome, Damascus (AZ)

18:30 Tripoli (RU)

21:00 Frankfurt (LU)

21:00 Baghdad (IA)

22:30 Baghdad (RU)

DEPARTURES:

07:30 Agaba (RU)

09:00 Beirut (MEA)

11:30 Tripoli (RU)

12:30 Athens (RU)

13:00 Geneva, London (RU)

13:15 Amsterdam, New York (RU)

13:30 Rome, Madrid (RU)

13:45 Istanbul, Bucharest (RU)

14:00 Larnaca (RU)

14:30 Cairo (RU)

14:50 Cairo (MS)

15:00 Moscow (RU)

15:30 Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (RU)

15:35 Kuwait (KU)

17:40 Riyadh (SV)

17:45 Kuwait (KU)

18:00 Dhahran (RU)

21:15 Jeddah (RU)

21:15 Cairo (RU)

22:30 Baghdad (IA)

22:35 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)

22:30 Baghdad (RU)

23:00 Baghdad (RU)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Monday rates

Local selling rates in Jds

Belgian franc 75.8 / 76.6

Dutch guilder 137.6 / 138.8

French franc 48.6 / 49

Indian Rupee 22.6 / 22.8

Japanese Yen (for 100) 208 / 210

Swedish crown 48.6 / 49

Swiss franc 186.7 / 188.5

U.K. sterling pound 527.7 / 532.2

U.S. dollar 359 / 357.7

W. German mark 154.7 / 156.3

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228

Amman civil defence 198 / 199

Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131

Civil Defence Quneizah 770733

Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306

Ambulance 193, 775111

Amman downtown fire brigade 630341

First aid 630341

Blood bank 778303

Civil Defence rescue 661111

Fire headquarters 623200

Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777

Police headquarters 639141

Electric police 636381, 636681

Electric Power Co. 636381, 636681

Municipal water complaints 771124/8

Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 533060

IBSID:

Post, Payal Maikel 245755

Amman pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Omar Hajjawi 986171

Amman pharmacy (-)

Al Sadat pharmacy (-)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19

Radio Jordan 773111/19

Ministry of Tourism 642111

Hotel complaints 666412

Price complaints 661176

Telephone information 12

Local and Middle East calls 10

Overseas calls 17

Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Uppertower price in Jds per kg.

Apple 240 / 245

Apple (yellow) 220 / 180

Apple (American & French) 450 / 400

Banana 300 / 260

Banana (Makassar) 250 / 220

Beans 280 / 240

Broad beans 350 / 300

Cabbage 70 / 50

Cauliflower (yellow) 130 / 100

Cauliflower (white) 130 / 140

Cucumber (large) 130 / 140

Cucumber (small) 120 / 90

Eggplant (large) 200 / 160

Eggplant (small) 170 / 120

Garlic 160 / 120

Grapefruit 280 / 240

Leemon 200 / 170

Lettuce (per one) 110 / 110

Maize (per one) 80 / 50

Maize (small) 140 / 110

Melons 160 / 120

Melon (sweet) 300 / 200

Onion (dry) 80 / 50

Onion (wet) 80 / 50

Pepper (sweet) 180 / 140

Pepper (hot) 200 / 160

Peas 340 / 300

Potatoes (local) 130 / 90

Potatoes (foreign) 100 / 70

Tomatoes 180 / 170

Tunip 110 / 70

Vine leaves 220 / 280

Water melon 90 / 70

Ministry announces 5-year plan to upgrade, consolidate industrial sector

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade plans to spend JD 13 million on building a permanent international industrial fair which will be set up at Marj Al Hamam, west of Amman and JD 500,000 of this sum will be spent on the first phase of this project during 1986, according to the ministry's recently released (1986-1990) five-year development plan.

The fair is to be established on 475 dunums of land and work has already started on setting up a temporary fair on the same site, according to a ministry spokesman. But the permanent fair, he said, will be carried out in three phases which include updating a feasibility study for the project, laying the project's infrastructure and other civil works and finally constructing the six main buildings and other utilities.

Industrial survey

The plan also provides for updating an industrial survey conducted in Jordan last year with the purpose of collecting further information on industrial business which could help planners prepare for projects to be included in the 1991-1995 national development plan, according to the ministry's plan.

The plan also provides for conducting industrial research programmes which will cost JD 250,000. This project, which aims at highlighting investment opportunities in the Kingdom, will include a feasibility study on new industrial projects which could be carried out between 1986 and 1991.

The ministry's plan envisages the implementation of a programme designed to promote Jordan's industrial efficiency through providing information and data and other essentials needed for the process of production, marketing and financing. The programme also aims at helping the process of transferring and developing modern technology that in

turn can contribute to the implementation of the five-year industrial plan. The overall expenditure in this endeavour has been estimated at JD 3 million, the plan said.

Metrology, standards centre

The ministry also plans to set up a centre for specifications and metrology which would be in charge of controlling quality. It would also have a role in drawing up legislation and strategies for industry in the Kingdom. The centre will also help prepare criteria for specifications, would define the required quality of manufactured goods, approve laboratories to be used for testing and would also define research programmes for training staff employed in this field. The total cost of the project, to be carried out between 1986 and 1990, is estimated at JD 13.3 million, the plan continued.

Industrial estates

The ministry's plan includes provisions for establishing an industrial estate on 400 dunums of land near the permanent site of Yarmouk University in Irbid Governorate. In 1984 the ministry signed an agreement with a Danish firm to prepare designs and tender documents for the project which is expected to start during this year and to be completed by the middle of 1988, according to the ministry's plan. The project is expected to cost JD 6 million of which JD 330,000 was spent last year on the preparation of designs and other studies pertaining to the project. The remainder will be spent over the coming five years.

The ministry plans to start work on the second phase of Sahab Industrial Estate by the end of 1986. The plan provides for spending JD 7 million on the second phase which includes the infrastructure and the civil works and other service buildings. A feasibility study on this second phase was conducted by a Greek firm in co-

operation with a local firm.

Another industrial estate is to be set up in Aqaba and according to the ministry's plans, the project will be built between 1987 and 1990 at a cost of JD 2.5 million. The plan said the project entails building a complex to accommodate 35 factories.

In Salt, the ministry plans to set up an industrial estate to include medium and light industries in Balqa Governorate. Work on the project has been scheduled to start in 1988 and will cost nearly JD 3.3 million.

Transport terminal

The government has entrusted the Industrial Cities Corporation with the task of developing the eastern regions of Amman by setting up a terminal for overland transport and establishing several industrial zones around the capital. Several consultancy firms have been qualified for the two projects but work has not started, pending fixing a location on which the projects can be implemented.

The land transport terminal is needed to cope with the increase in heavy traffic and the need for vehicle maintenance and other related services. In addition, the projected terminal will provide lodgings for drivers and also warehouses for storing goods. According to plans, work on the project will start in 1987 and will take two years to complete at an estimated cost of JD 8 million.

Regarding other projects, the ministry plans to spend JD 8 million on setting up industrial zones grouping different industries within certain areas.

Plans have also been drawn up for carrying out a joint project involving the Arab Potash Company, the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company and the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company for the production of 396,000 tonnes of fertilisers. The project has been estimated to cost JD 18 million of which JD 11.7 million will be provided through foreign loans.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree okays appointment of NRA director

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the appointment of Mr. Kamal Jreisat as director general of the Natural Resources Authority.

Dudin receives Italian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Mr. Wafar Dudin Monday received Italian Ambassador in Amman Luigi Anaduzzi. The meeting discussed the current situation in the Middle East in general and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in particular.

Ministry to float tender for hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health will shortly float a tender for constructing three new hospitals in Tafleh, Ajloun and Karak, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra has reported. The construction of the new hospitals is part of the ministry's objective to provide hospital services to all members of the public in different parts of the Kingdom.

Muasher meets industry chamber board

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply, Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher Monday held talks with the chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry and members of the board of administration. The two sides discussed issues pertaining to the export of Jordanian commodities to neighbouring Arab countries which have concluded commercial agreements with Jordan. Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry Mohammad Saleh Jaber said the members and Mr. Muasher discussed means of overcoming difficulties holding up the implementation of commercial agreements already concluded with Jordan.

Centre holds special course for mothers

ZARQA (Petra) — A three-day training course for mothers of mentally handicapped children has concluded at the Manar School for Special Education in Zarqa. The course was organised by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund in cooperation with the Department of Social Development in Zarqa and the Manar and Princess Basma centres for special education.

Amman to host talks on pediatric surgery

AMMAN (Petra) — The first Arab conference for pediatric surgeons will be held in Amman in October. On the conference's agenda are issues pertaining to the various majors in pediatric surgery in addition to a seminar on the development of pediatric surgery in the Arab World. Taking part in the three-day conference will be doctors from the Arab World, Europe, America and Australia.

King receives more cables for Independence Day

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received more cables of good wishes from kings and heads of states of Arab, Islamic and friendly countries on the occasion of Jordan's Independence Day and in their cables the leaders expressed their heartfelt good wishes to King Hussein on the occasion and wished Jordan every progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of the King.

The cables came from King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, King Juan Carlos of Spain, Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said Ibn Sultan of Oman, King Alexander of Malaysia, French President Francois Mitterrand, the president of Finland, the president of Togo, Sheikh Hamad Ibn Issa of Bahrain, Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Sa'ad Al Abdallah Al Sabah and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai also received cables of good wishes from the prime ministers of a number of Arab, Islamic and friendly states on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Jordan's Independence Day.

Mr. Rifai Sunday attended the main celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of Independence which were held and organised by Amman Municipality.

Parade

At the celebration, held in the municipality's main garden in Amman, the prime minister unveiled a commemorative plaque bearing the portrait of King Hussein and he later watched a parade of scouts, camel riders and horsemen followed by a procession of cars bedecked with flowers and

representing various industrial business. The parade passed along the main streets of Amman lined by cheering crowds.

At the head of the parade, which was watched by thousands of people who thronged the main squares and thoroughfares, was the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces musical band playing national music. The parade, which started from Amman Municipality, ended at Independence Street on the western suburbs of the city.

Attending the celebration were Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh and senior municipality officials.

Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akel Al Fayez respectively also received congratulatory cables from speakers of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's People's Assembly and the Speaker of the Algerian People's Assembly on the occasion.

Zarqa officials pay tribute to Jordan's progress

Acting Governor of Zarqa Mohammad Al Dib'i said that the anniversary of Independence Day is a great occasion which is celebrated with great happiness and

as a national feast which the people of Jordan mark throughout the Kingdom. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, he said that Independence Day is a national and pan-Arab day as on that day many achievements were made and are remembered on each anniversary. The significance of this event stems from national and pan-Arab role, derived from the Great Arab Revolt which was made possible by the Arab army through its long struggle in defence of Arab causes and the homeland against colonialist conspiracies, the governor added.

Chairman of the Zarqa municipal committee, Mr. Badri Baha'iddin, also stressed that the Independence Day celebrations reflect the achievements made after the Jordanian people attained independence and free rule. He told Petra that political, social and cultural achievements made during the period since independence, together with the successful efforts to upgrade and strengthen the Armed Forces, are very outstanding.

Meanwhile members of the public in Zarqa Governorate sent cables of congratulations to the King on the occasion of Independence Day in which they voiced their pride in the King's great leadership and in the achievements made under his reign. The cables also hailed the King's efforts aiming at highlighting Jordan's image and backing Arab nations. The cables were received from heads of municipal and village councils, tribal leaders and refugee camp notables, representatives of the industrial and trade sectors, charitable societies and sports clubs as well as from the Zarqa Development Corporation.

Iraq starts shipping cement to Egypt via Aqaba port

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraq has started shipping cement to Egypt via the port of Aqaba on the Red Sea, in accordance with an agreement signed between the two countries.

A Jordanian consortium of companies has won a contract to transport Iraqi cement to Egypt via Aqaba and a Ministry of Industry source said the \$20 million deal is expected to boost economic and trade ties between Jordan, Egypt and Iraq.

In addition, the deal will employ hundreds of trucks to transport the cement from Iraq to Aqaba where it will be shipped to Egypt in special cargo vessels at the rate of 5,000 tonnes a day. Nearly one million tonnes of Iraqi cement will be shipped to Egypt in accordance with the agreement.

Exchange agreement

Egypt earlier signed a package deal to exchange goods and commodities with Jordan. The deal includes selling Jordanian cement worth at least \$24 million in implementation of an agreement endorsed by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee which convened in Amman towards end of last month.

Ministry of Supply Under Secretary Mohammad Al Saqqaf told the Jordan Times that the agreement will probably go into effect by the end of this month, once it has been approved by the two ministers of industry in Egypt and Jordan. The deal was signed in Cairo by Mr. Saqqaf and his Egyptian counterpart Ahmad Al Banna during the former's visit to Egypt at the head of a Jordanian delegation.

AOAS prepares for meeting on administrative sciences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) and Al Hussein Sports City Monday concluded an agreement under which the AOAS will use the Palace of Culture and other conference facilities for the 20th international conference on administrative sciences which is due to be held in Amman on Sept. 6.

Signing the agreement for the

AOAS was the organisation's Director General Nasser Al Saegh while it was signed for the Hussein Youth City by its director general Marwan Kheir.

A responsible source at the organisation said that he expected 800 to 1,000 participants to take part in the conference.

The source paid tribute to the concerned Jordanian authorities for their contributions.

Ministry of Supply destroys 40 tonnes of poultry meat

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply has confiscated and destroyed 40 tonnes of poultry meat which was found to be unfit for human consumption, according to Mr. Abdullab Al Hawamdeh, under secretary of the Ministry of Supply.

He said that inspection teams from the ministry found the bad meat at one of the cold stores

owned by a private company. The meat was later tested at a laboratory and it was found that the commodity was unfit for human consumption, he added.

A committee has been set up to supervise the destruction of the meat and legal procedures are being taken against the local company, Mr. Hawamdeh said.

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Petra — little known wonder of the ancient world

By John Rice

Associated Press Writer

PETRA — On a summer's day in 1812, Swiss explorer Jean Burckhardt coaxed an unwilling bedouin guide down a narrow, unusually guided ravine and came upon one of the great sights of the ancient world.

Through a cliff opening, barely 12 paces wide, he suddenly confronted a massive, Greco-Roman-looking facade of columns topped by a pediment, hewn from a reddish-orange rock face and some 40 metres high.

It was a sight, he later wrote "the situation and beauty of which are calculated to make an extraordinary impression."

Burckhardt, the first Westerner in perhaps 600 years to see Petra, was gazing at "the treasury."

It is one of many architectural masterpieces carved into the rock cliffs of Petra, the capital of the Nabateans. They were Arab traders who roamed from Mesopotamia to Italy, vending frankincense, spice, gems and silk in the centuries just before and after the birth of Christ.

Petra today is the pride of Jordan's struggling tourism industry, "our jewel," in the words of Tourism Authority Director Nasri Atallah.

Some 200,000 tourists a year trek or ride horses down the 1.6 kilometre ravine to see the "rose red city half as old as time," description coined by poet John William Burgon.

There are two hotels, one posh, one modest, at the once inaccessible site and there are plans for more. A campground is located adjacent to a loud power generator which runs all night.

Most tourists visit on a day trip

from Amman, 180 kilometres north, although that option bypasses the scenic King's Highway south from the capital and the imposing Crusader castles of Karak and Shoubak.

Yet for much of the year, Petra remains uncrowded and undeveloped. When the lone restaurant inside the canyon city is closed, overheated hikers must make do with lukewarm soda pop or bottled water sold from lean-to shelters, or with a cup of tea brewed by a bedouin woman over a cooking fire in her goat-hair tent. "It is really one of the great unsold wonders of the world," said Rami Khouri, Jordan's leading archaeological journalist, whose book on Petra is due out in the autumn.

Trade routes

Petra is located at the crossroads of three great ancient trade routes, from Arabia and Persia leading to Damascus and the Mediterranean.

On the hills towering over the city are ruins left by the Edomites, a people whose battles with Saul, David and other Israelite kings are recorded in the Bible.

Petra itself was built by the Nabateans who moved into the area in roughly 600 B.C., probably from the Arabian peninsula.

At its height, perhaps 10,000 people lived in Petra, although the population figures are very uncertain, according to Philip Hammond, a University of Utah archaeologist who has led excavation teams at the site for nine seasons.

At one point, the Nabatean empire stretched from the Sinai peninsula to Damascus. Its forces successfully fought off the Seleucid successors of Alexander the

Great, defeated King Herod and Roman armies until 106 A.D., when Nabatea peacefully agreed to Roman sovereignty.

As traders, "those guys were some of the sharpest operators going," said Hammond, who noted that some experts estimate that 25 per cent of the Gross National Product of the Roman Empire once passed through Nabatean lands.

The wise men from the East who, according to the Bible, visited the infant Jesus, almost surely crossed or came from Nabatea, carrying the sort of goods that made Petra rich.

Hammond said Petra itself contains more than 800 monuments, the most impressive of them built under King Aretas IV, who ruled from 9 B.C. until 40 A.D.

Nabatean culture

He said the famous classical monuments carved into the stone walls were almost certainly Nabatean, despite names such as the treasury and the monastery. Their stunning facades conceal shallow, generally plain rooms, some with burial niches.

Hammond's excavation at the temple of the winged lions has uncovered pottery and metal workshops which have helped give a picture of Nabatean culture. He said Petran art, language and technology showed a "great eclecticism" as its traders "came back from various areas with ideas."

The monuments at Petra bear witness not only to Greek and Roman influence but also to Eastern styles.

Although the Nabateans had their own system of writing, no books have been found — only a

few financial records and tomb inscriptions.

Mr. Khouri said Petra began to decline toward the end of the First Century as sea trade routes opened to the south and then a land route swung through Palmyra to the north, in present-day Syria.

A major earthquake in 551 ap-

parently killed the remnants of the city. Hammond said, although the Crusaders built fortifications in the 12th Century.

From that time until Burckhardt emerged from the ravine in 1812, it remained little more than a legend for most of the world.



The Treasury at Petra — little changed since Burckhardt chanced upon the great sight of the ancient world (J.T. file photo)

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Taba: the case in point

THE CONTINUING deadlock in the Egyptian-Israeli discussions on the fate of Taba indicate that while the Israelis, intransigent as ever, are up to their old tricks again, the Egyptians have learned much about negotiating with Tel Aviv since the brief and crisis-ridden relationship between those two countries was formed in 1979. The Israeli goal has clearly been to build "momentum" in the negotiating process in the hope of stampeding the Cairo government into concessions over the issue. Hence the regular bulletins emanating from Israel describing "progress" and "compromise proposals" during the course of the talks in an ill-concealed attempt to mask the Peres-Shamir coalition's willingness to concede nothing in the dispute over who will rule Taba. The third partner in these negotiations, the United States, is willing to go along with this Israeli charade, but only up to a certain point, as revealed by the announcement that, despite entreaties from Tel Aviv, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz would not travel to the Middle East in an effort to break the deadlock over Taba. The Israelis undoubtedly believed that Mr. Shultz, once on the scene and with his prestige on the line, could be induced to lean hard on the Mubarak government and force Egyptian acquiescence to the Israeli definition of the question to be submitted to arbitration. The U.S. secretary of state demurred, however, perhaps reflecting on the last time he came to the region at the Israeli behest and followed Tel Aviv's advice in framing the May 17, 1983 agreement for peace in Lebanon, with disastrous results. So it is left to State Department legal advisor Abraham Sofaer, a man who vacations at a summer home in Israel, to maintain the myth of movement in the Taba discussions.

To their credit, the Egyptians appear to have learned from the experience of former president Anwar Sadat and show no signs of caving in to the pressures created by the illusion of "momentum." They are wise to stick to their guns and insist unequivocally on the return of Taba to Egyptian sovereignty. Moreover, Israel's uncompromising stance and persistence in drawing out relatively uncomplicated negotiations over the fate of one square kilometre of desert coast constitute a persuasive argument that Egypt's future lies with the Arabs, and not in the vain hope of constructive and mutually-beneficial ties to the Jewish state. Indeed, if Israel seriously entertains the idea of drawing other Arab states into peace negotiations with it, there could hardly be a better example than Taba that sitting down at the bargaining table with representatives of Tel Aviv would be an exercise in futility. That one square kilometre of desert coast is a thousand times less important to Israel than one square metre of the West Bank or the Golan Heights. Or is it?

In the United States, members of the National Rifle Association (NRA) oppose any restrictions on the sale of armour-piercing rifle-coated bullets, in spite of the fact that these bullets serve no valid hunting or sporting purpose. The NRA's logic is simply that any restriction on the freedom to possess deadly weapons will lead quickly and inexorably to a complete ban on firearms for personal use. So the NRA's guiding principle is "no concessions." It is a similar mindset that governs the majority of Israelis and nearly all of their leaders. In this framework all parts of "Eretz Yisrael" are sacred, and Taba assumes a significance hardly less than that of Jerusalem. An extreme comparison, perhaps, but there is doubt any longer that Israel too is a fundamentalist state, or that the two most unreasonable, uncompromising, intransigent and inhumane leaderships in the Middle East lie in Tehran and Tel Aviv?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: 40 years of independence

JORDAN has been independent for 40 years during which the Jordanian people offered sacrifice and achieved prosperity and progress. Over the past 40 years, the Jordanian people have been enjoying stability and security and dignity, free of all hegemony and foreign domination. Independence is essential in the life of any people if they want to achieve prosperity and progress. Independence gives the people a feeling of dignity and determination for defending the motherland. Independence is a liberation of all political, economic, cultural and psychological hegemony and domination. We pay tribute to those who offered so much and exerted all their efforts for achieving this independence. We greet all those who were brave and who genuinely worked for their country and their nation over the past years and those who defied all challenges and the aggressors and their conspiracies and plots. All those who helped to give Jordan independence have offered us the honour to defend this land, and we will do all that we can to protect our territory and our right against all ambitious aggressors.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordanian, Syrian solidarity

DAMASCUS and Amman constitute the two major points and basic cornerstones in any joint Arab action, and therefore cooperation and coordination between them is essential. For this reason also the two capitals have to pursue consultations and focus their attention on the challenges and the threats lying ahead and ways for tackling Arab issues. President Assad's visit to Amman and the return visit by King Hussein to Damascus fall within the framework of close cooperation and coordination. The two leaders have now taken their countries forward in a march towards solidarity and towards building a strong Arab position. The dangers confronting Jordan are the same as those confronting Syria, and the differences among Arab countries are harmful to both sides alike. Amman and Damascus are both striving hard to remove all differences among Arab states and both capitals are intent on bolstering bilateral relations and promoting joint actions are exemplary and should be copied by all Arab states.

Al Dustour: Jordan, Syria on the right track

KING Hussein's visit to Damascus and his meeting with President Assad are within the framework of unique relations between Jordan and Syria, the two countries which together make up the nucleus of joint Arab action and the basis for all forms of solidarity among Arab states. The Damascus meeting is in no way independent from those that have been going on in Amman. It goes without saying that Jordan remains one of the first Arab countries that realises the enormous dangers threatening the Arab Nation, and therefore, is intent on doing all that it can to end differences among Arab leaders and rally Arab countries for the common cause. This has been the duty and the work of Jordan under King Hussein over the past years, and this country has been devoting time and effort for serving Arab causes. The King's journey to Damascus was in line with this endeavour and in a true show of keenness on joint Arab action and solidarity among Arab states. King Hussein is pursuing efforts aimed at serving the Arab Nation.

Why U.S. deals are going right for Israel

The following commentary by Michael White appeared in the May 21 issue of The Guardian.

THE SENATE'S resounding 73-22 defeat of the Saudi arms sale, which President Reagan is now huffing and puffing to reverse, constitutes one of the more remarkable feats of telepathy since Yuri Geller bent the spoons: a rebuff for the Arabs which underlines Congressional support for Israel, achieved without the powerful Jewish American lobby having to lift a finger.

And yet with all this proof of U.S.-Israeli solidarity American Jews and their supporters are uneasy about what it means — both in the Middle East and in domestic political terms. Consider: all the administration wanted to do was sell a further \$350 million worth of missiles to a conservative Arab state, run by the Arab equivalent of Reaganite Republicans and facing Islamic fundamentalism across the Gulf and Marxism in neighbouring South Yemen.

The New York Times, a doubtful supporter of Israel, backed the deal. The government in Jerusalem only nominally opposed it and powerful groups like the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) let it be known they were willing to "give this one" to their friend, Mr. Reagan. Yet the Senate jumped on it with the House (356-62) not far behind.

It is a far cry from the days of mistrust between Washington and Jerusalem which followed the invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Attempts to achieve peace with the moderate Arab states which the administration nurtured have again foundered, along with a Jordanian arms deal. The oil weapon has collapsed. Radical Arab terrorism is resurgent and provoking a severe — and popular — American response along lines pioneered by Israel. George Shultz, once a Bechtel Corporation Arabist, now won over, is its chief exponent.

"We used to have a two-track policy," a gloomy ex-State Department Arabist was quoted as saying the other day. "Now only Israel's interests are considered." So U.S. grants — not loans — to Israel are running at record level (\$4.5 billion last year). The Israel free trade agreement went through the House 422-0. Even the long-delayed genocide convention, a wider issue to be sure but one of special significance for Jews, finally got past Jesse Helms in the Senate.

No wonder that when AIPAC recently entertained its 21st Washington contacts the menu in the Lincoln East room of the Hilton and euphoria. And yet when the American Jewish Committee

(AJC) held its 80th Washington bash recently, euphoria was tempered with disquiet emanating directly from the extent of their current success.

Under the Corinthian columns of the Senate caucus room, where Joe McCarthy once hunted communists and Sam Irwin later tracked down the Watergate tapes, they disagreed over the duties of Jewish lobbying while extolling the virtue of lobbying in general — Michael Deaver's current difficulties notwithstanding. Put bluntly, as it was by Michigan's liberal Democratic senator, Carl Levin, American Jewish groups are in danger of being seen as single issue outfits — pre-occupied exclusively with the survival of Israel and the plight of Soviet Jewry.

"If we hope to have general support for our Jewish agenda, we must show general concern for America's general welfare," he said, rattling off such issues as civil rights, education and social justice as "justice issues" which are also Jewish issues. Of course, as conservatives present quickly spotted, these are all items on the liberal agenda, for the Jewish love affair with America has been conducted on overwhelmingly liberal and Democratic terms ever since the New Deal.

In terms of individual donations and of votes it still is, American

Jews voted 2-1 for Fritz Mondale in 1984 despite the president's active courtship. As conservatives see it, American Jews have drifted to the right along with Ronald Reagan and the country, just as Menachem Begin pulled Israel away from Labour domination. At the same time the Democrats (shades of Britain's Labour Party) were pulled towards the Arab cause by Carter policies and tainted with anti-semitism by Jesse Jackson. "You're upset because conservatives now have the microphone," they say. "It's this year's hot Jewish self-flagellation issue."

But the liberals' complaint is far more fundamental. It is that some Jewish American support groups are entering into what the increasingly conservative (and ex-once pro-Israel) New Republic Magazine calls "an unholy alliance" with rightwing Republicans who care little for the social pluralism and religious tolerance which has made America, even more than Israel, a Jewish promised land but have stumbled on what is either a modern road back from Damascus or a notably cynical formula.

It is that if they support Israel in Congress and oppose its enemies (even when Israel doesn't, in the Saudi case) then they will get financial support from Jewish political action committees (PACs) in

the same way they will get it from anti-gun law PACs and defence industry PACs. That many of them are the same people eager to tear down the famous "wall" that constitutionally separates church and state here and "christianise" America does not seem to matter. Even blatantly anti-semitic remarks from preacher-politicians of the Right have been politely explained away by PAC leaders.

Ironically PACs are a post-Watergate development to curb secret donations from oddball millionaires to candidates by making donations party and issue oriented — in theory. In practice the trends have strengthened the role of cash and the power of incumbency in U.S. elections and bolstered the influence of single-issue groups like the pro-lifers or anti-nuclearists.

With 34 senate seats, 22 of them Republican up for grabs in November, such influence could save control, currently 53-47, for Mr. Reagan's party in a year when it ought to lose. Of the 18 Republicans standing again, Jewish PACs will actively oppose only three. Steve Symms in Idaho, South Dakota's James Abdnor (who is of Arab descent) and Alabama's Jeremiah Denton. Last year even Jesse Helms, the Senate's outstanding bigot whom Jewish influence failed to unseat in 1984, was wined and dined in Israel. He has since come round.

It is one thing to work with the party in power. It is another to keep it in power on a single issue judgment, and, as the New Republic reports increasingly to be the case, to warn potential challengers to a "sound incumbent" even a sound Jewish challenger to the hawking Alfonso D'Amato in New York, that they need not expect any help from the PAC.

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It may be that debates like the AJCs, which are increasingly heard, suggest that the tide is already swinging back to the "multi-issue" approach to influence. Conservatives are aware that rebuffs for the Saudis may not be in Israel's best interests long-term. It must be healthy that the invasion of Lebanon at least legitimised criticism of Israel by American Jews. It has been evident in the case of Rabbi Meir Kahane, Israel's American-born extremist, and the Jay Pollard case where an American Jew was encouraged to spy against the U.S. Both have been roundly condemned here.

Taiwan shows flexibility in dealing with China

By Kathy Chang
The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan's willingness to negotiate recently with China over the return of a cargo jet indicates that the government seeks a flexible approach in dealing with Peking, observers here say.

Scholars and other observers also say that although Taiwan has played down the significance of the negotiations, they believe the decision by China Airlines, Taiwan's flag carrier, to hold talks with Chinese officials probably was made by President Chiang Ching-Kuo.

A surprised public has generally hailed the talks to obtain the return of co-pilot Tung Kung-Shin, 37, and flight engineer Chiu Ming-Chih, 40, who were forced to go to China by defecting pilot Wang Hsi-Chueh, 56.

Newspapers described the government's decision as a new sign of flexibility from the ruling Kuomintang, or Nationalist Party.

"It marks a major breakthrough in the ruling party's attitude and practice," commented the independence Evening Post. "It will establish a precedent for future similar cases."

Lu Ya-Li, a professor of political science at National Taiwan University, said in an interview that the green light for the negotiations between Taiwan's CAL and China's CAAC airline "must have been made by the president."

But Lu said he did not believe the negotiations over the jet signalled that the government had decided to take an active role in contact with the Chinese Communists.

A Western observer, who declined to be further identified, also said Taiwan appears to be taking a less rigid stance toward China.

He pointed out that Taiwan in March protested its designation as

Taiwan instead of China in the Asian Development Bank, but did not withdraw from the monetary organisation.

He said in an interview that he believed Taiwan's decision in that instance reflected a willingness to tolerate the presence of China in the same organisation.

The decision by the Nationalists to negotiate with the Communists came at a time when President Chiang is trying to retain public support by allowing dissident groups to have more freedom.

Chiang earlier in May ordered a 12-member ad hoc committee in the Kuomintang to consider the feasibility of lifting martial law, which has been in force since the Nationalists moved to Taiwan after their defeat on the mainland.

The Western observer said these moves showed that Chiang wants to retain strong public support for the Kuomintang "as a legacy to his successor who might not have Chiang's strong leadership and charisma."

Some government officials believed that Peking's decision to return the jet and two crewmen in Hong Kong was a move by China to show Taiwan that future talks between them would not run against Taiwan's wishes.

A senior government official, who refused to be named, said the talks over the jet had already lowered Taiwan's animosity toward the Communist government on the mainland.

Public pressure on the government to allow family visits to China and direct business contacts with the mainland "will certainly grow stronger," the official said in an interview.

He said this tendency of easing the animosity between the Communists and Nationalists "is good because it reduces the possibility of a military confrontation between the two sides."

"We don't want to see a war between Chinese," he said.



U.S. nerve gas plan evokes grim war scenarios

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A U.S. plan to resume nerve gas production, the subject of intense dispute between the White House and congressional foes, has spawned some gruesome "scenarios" of a possible European war.

Reagan administration officials, whose plan last week won the backing of NATO defence ministers, warn that Soviet forces might overwhelm NATO with deadly chemicals in the event of war unless Washington rebuilds a lethal gas deterrent.

Arms control backers, opposing a return to production after a 17-year break, have a "worst case scenario" of their own.

They say superpower chemical war would result in millions of agonising civilian deaths in Europe while having little impact on either side's prospects for victory.

According to Pentagon officials, the credibility of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) defences has been eroded by a huge buildup of Soviet chemical weapons since 1969,

when President Nixon, in a "gesture for peace," suspended U.S. production of nerve gas — a nearly-invisible chemical which attacks the central nervous system and can kill in seconds.

Defence Department officials say the Soviet Union has built up a huge chemical weapons stockpile, giving it a 10-to-one advantage. Soviet troops trained for chemical combat have grown to 80,000 and would double in wartime, they say.

The Pentagon says its aging chemical weapons are deteriorating, that few are fully suitable for combat and the stockpile must be replaced by safer "binaries," which combine two benign chemicals into lethal nerve gas only after firing.

Congress agreed to fund production of binaries last year if the plan won support from NATO's North Atlantic Council, its highest decision-making body, which meets in Canada this week.

U.S. officials say the council will not take up the issue as the defence ministers already have given their go-ahead. But anti-nerve gas congressmen say that unless the

issue is approved by the council the binary programme cannot go forward.

Pentagon analysts spin the following scenario for what might happen if war were to occur without the new chemical weapons:

Soviet forces strike suddenly at airfields, ports, command centres, supply depots and nuclear weapons sites, using long-range rockets and jet bombers to spread a persistent form of deadly gas, which can hang over its targets for days.

These attacks cause chaos in the NATO command and delay a decision on whether to retaliate with old-style, unreliable chemicals, which cannot be used against distant Soviet command centres because they are cannon-fired with a short range.

Simultaneously, Soviet forces hit some sections of NATO's thinly-defended forward wall with chemicals which last only a few hours. NATO troops throughout Europe depend on cumbersome anti-gas protective suits, which severely impede fighting ability.

But Soviet forces, who know where the gas is, use protective

gear only where necessary. Elsewhere, Soviet troops unencumbered by such suits slice through NATO units handicapped by the bulky gear, opening the way for a breakthrough by Soviet tank units.

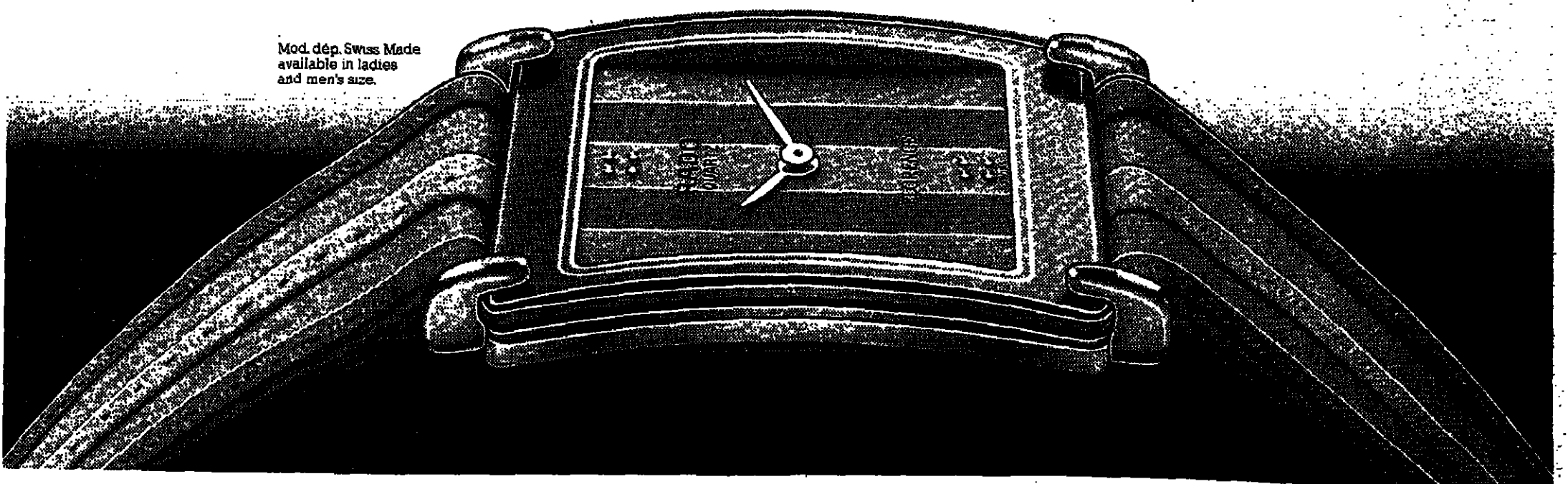
Pentagon officials say binaries, carried in artillery shells and "big-eye" bombs, would deter Moscow from using chemical arms.

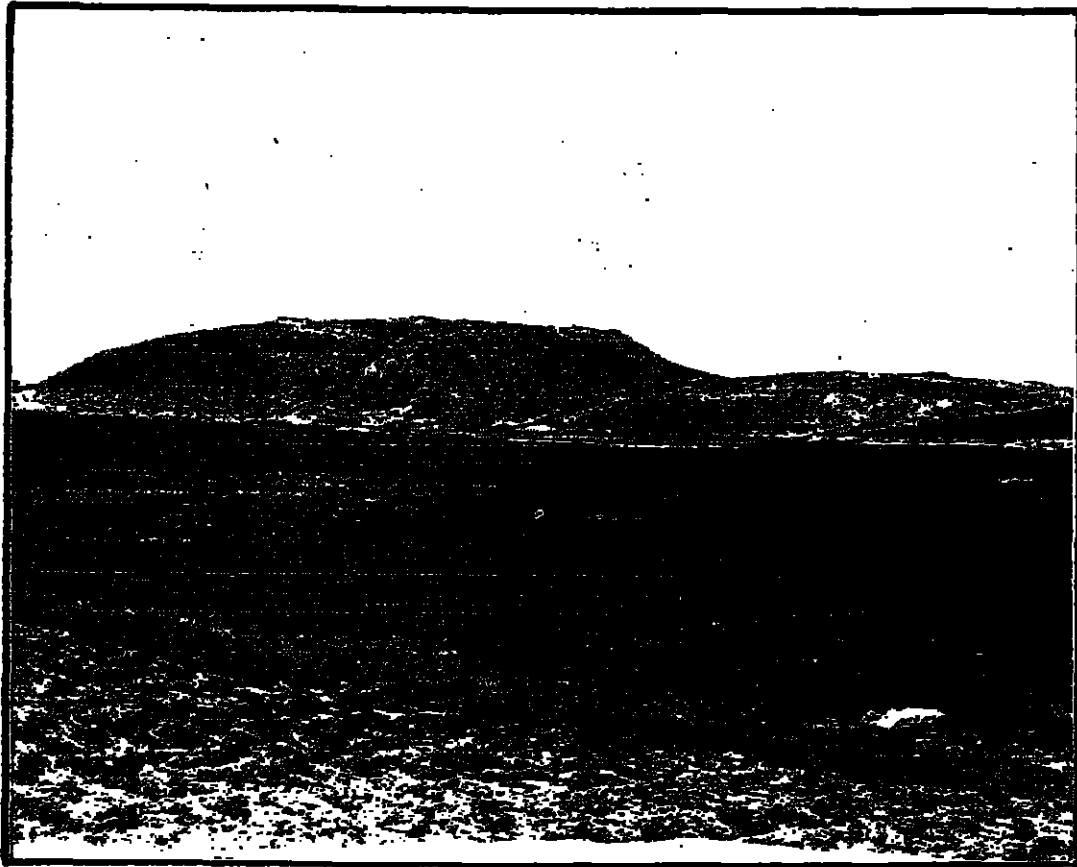
Opponents of binaries say that the chances of a war in Europe are remote and that such a war would soon involve nuclear weapons, dwarfing the horror of chemicals. Groups such as the Liberal Lobby Council for a Livable World say poison gas is not effective because the vagaries of wind and weather make its effect hard to predict.

Some Pentagon officials give the impression nerve gas kills quickly and quietly with one short sniff. But chemical weapons foes say some victims could linger for hours or days, suffering symptoms including convulsions, dimmed vision, uncontrollable defecation and vomiting, and slow strangulation.

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The double mound of Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, viewed from the north. (Photo by Alan Hills, British Museum).



A burial from the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age cemetery, with a copper bowl tightly clenched in the teeth of the deceased. (Photo by Alan Hills).

British team unearths ancient Tell es-Sa'idiyeh

The following article by Rami G. Khouri is the first in a three-part series on the findings of a British Museum's team dig at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh in the Jordan Valley. The remaining two parts of the series will appear in this week's Jordan Times.

THE large double mound of Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, one of the most prominent antiquities sites in the Jordan Valley, may be a rare Jordanian site that was inhabited during most of the Early Bronze Age (3300-2000 B.C.), a particularly problematic period in the ancient history of this area.

Two consecutive seasons of excavations by a team from the British Museum, headed by Mr.

Jonathan Tubb, have produced important new evidence that allows scholars to reconstruct more accurately the cultural and perhaps even the political history of the central Jordan Valley during the 2,500-year-span from the Early Bronze Age to the late Iron Age.

Mr. Tubb's excavations have shed much new light on three key periods in the history of the site:

- the Early Bronze Age II open settlement from around 3000-2750 B.C.;
- the heavily fortified hilltop settlement from the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age transition period (around 1250-1150 B.C.);
- and the sustained Iron Age settlement from the 10th to the 6th Centuries B.C.

The excavations, sponsored and funded by the British Museum, with additional generous sponsorship from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and Aramex International are also noteworthy because they represent the third time since 1953 that Tell es-Sa'idiyeh has been systematically excavated — with important new discoveries made on each occasion.

In 1926, the American archaeologist W. F. Albright thought Tell es-Sa'idiyeh was the site of the biblical city of Zaphon, mentioned in Judges 12:1.

When the American biblical scholar Nelson Glueck visited it in 1943, his reading of the surface pottery sherds suggested to him that the site was occupied from the Early Bronze Age to the Iron II period (roughly from 3300-586 B.C.), and again during the Persian, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine eras.

Glueck thought Tell es-Sa'idiyeh was the site of the biblical city of Zaphon (Joshua 3:16 and 1 Kings 7:46).

About 40 metres west of the double mound, Glueck identified a smaller site that was occupied during the Chalcolithic period (4500-3300 B.C.). This was excavated briefly in 1953 by the French scholar H. de Contenson, who found the remains of a settlement dating from the Middle Chalcolithic period, around 4000-3500 B.C.

The main tell at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh was first excavated by Professor James Pritchard of the University of Pennsylvania, during four seasons in the mid-1960s. His work on the main tell and the adjacent lower tell revealed several ancient occupations spanning the latter part of the Late Bronze Age to the Roman era, approximately from 1300 B.C. to the 2nd Century A.D.

The earliest material excavated by the Pennsylvania expedition came from a Late Bronze/Early Iron Age transition period cemetery (13th/12th Centuries B.C.), located on the lower tell.

On the north side of the tell, and still very much visible today, Dr. Pritchard excavated a massive, 2.25-metre-wide stone staircase that connected the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age city, on the summit of the main tell, with its water supply at the base of the tell. Ninety-five steps of the staircase are still preserved, but the upper 45 steps have disappeared.

A mud-brick wall in the centre of the staircase supported the roof and helped camouflage the hidden staircase, thought to have been constructed in this manner to allow the town's residents safe access to their vital water source. Pritchard dated the staircase from towards the end of Iron Age I, in the 10th Century B.C. On the main tell, he excavated a well-planned urban area from the Iron II period, with a series of two-room houses or workshops fronting on two parallel streets. Dating from the middle of the 8th Century B.C., these were part of an Iron Age town that was protected by a 3.5-metre-thick wall. Towards the end of the Iron age, the area seems to have been used as a threshing floor and grain storage area.

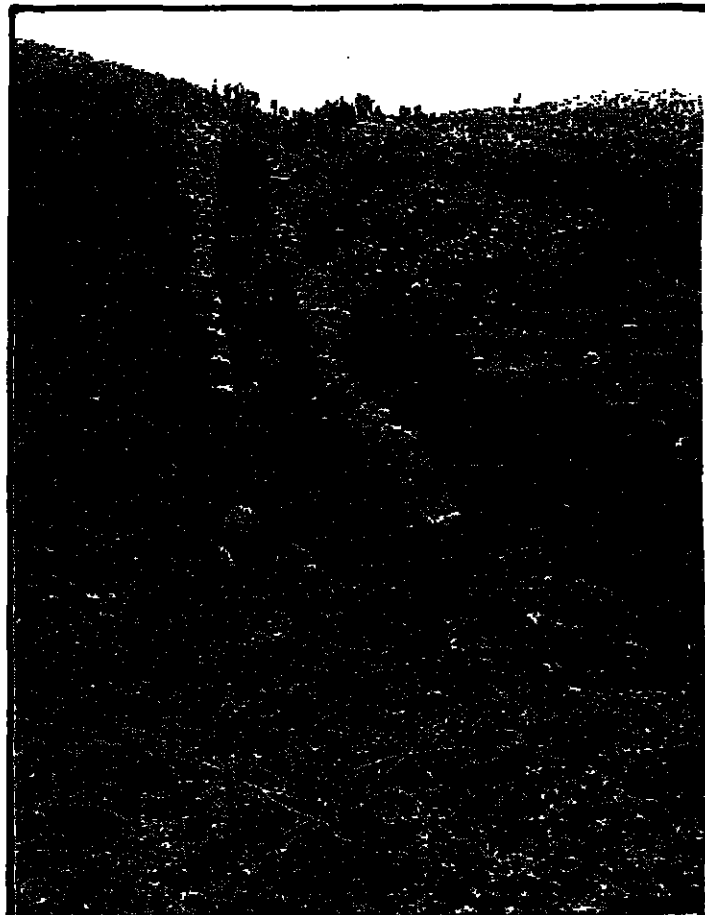
On the summit of the tell, Pritchard excavated a mid-4th C. B.C. (Persian period) monumental, 22-metre-square building, or "palace," composed of seven rooms arranged around a paved central courtyard. In the Hellenistic era, the summit accommodated a rectangular, fortress-like mud-brick building roofed with sycamore beams covered with reeds and mud. The last occupation level on the summit, from the Roman period, included a building that served as a watchtower or fortress, associated with two water reservoirs.

After Pritchard ended his excavations in 1967, many scholars

believed that Tell es-Sa'idiyeh still contained a considerable amount of archaeological material. Mr. Jonathan Tubb of the British Museum was intrigued by the hints that Tell es-Sa'idiyeh might have been continuously occupied throughout the whole of the Bronze Age (3300-1200 B.C.). If so, it could provide a rare and valuable "framework" for assessing the results of excavations at sites that were occupied in a single period, or discontinuously, thereby clarifying the cultural history and settlement pattern of the central Jordan Valley.

His two seasons of excavations to date at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, in 1985 and 1986, have clarified several important stages in the history of the ancient settlement, while also providing new information that may force a revision of the heretofore accepted historical geography of the area.

The 1985-86 excavations have revealed a major occupation phase during the Early Bronze Age II period (around 3000-2750 B.C.), which turned out, in fact, to represent the most extensive ancient occupation of the tell. There is surely an earlier EB I occupation level, to judge from the EB I pottery sherds on the site, but excavations have not yet reached down into the EB I layers.



The remains of the large, camouflaged stone staircase built by the inhabitants of the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age settlement on the summit of the main tell. (Photo by Rami G. Khouri).

Crack cracks down on U.S.

By Rick Hampson
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — They call it "crack" on the east coast of the United States and "rock" out west. Whatever its name, this refined, smokable form of cocaine may be the most addictive narcotic ever sold on the streets of the United States.

Strong enough for the rich man, cheap enough for the poor man, crack is becoming the nation's drug of choice, from suburban high schools to the proliferating urban drug dens known as "base houses."

"If you're interested in epidemics, this is quite a phenomenon," said Mark Benvenuto, a drug abuse specialist with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. "In 13 years in this work, I've never seen anything like it."

A year ago, a national telephone service that receives more than 700 reports a day of cocaine abuse, had not gotten one about crack. Now, almost a third of its calls are prompted by the drug.

Police say crack accounts for a growing percentage of cocaine sales, including more than half of New York's, two-thirds of Dallas' and more than three-quarters of Detroit's.

In Philadelphia, aficionados are making crack with equipment and ingredients found in any kitchen. Crack is cocaine that's been distilled from its familiar powder form, cocaine hydrochloride. Although crack is no purer than the powder, which generally is snorted through the nose, it can be smoked.

Sucked into the lungs and travelling on the body's oxygen supply, the cocaine reaches the brain in seconds with what one user describes as "an electric jolt" far more intense than the high from snorted cocaine.

But the euphoria fades after a few minutes, so many users take another dose, and another. Eventually, the system becomes insensitive to crack's effect and is left only with a craving for more.

This is why police, physicians and users describe crack as a triumph of illicit narcotic production and marketing: At \$10 to \$20, it can entice those who could never afford powder cocaine at \$100 a gram.

Cocaine powder is made into crack by putting it into a mixture that is heated, allowed to harden and then broken into small pieces and sold in tiny vials.

By making cocaine smokable, and by selling it in small, affordable amounts, dealers vastly increase the demand for their product.

Dr. Arnold Washton, research director for the cocaine telephone service, said the dealers' marketing strategy is more effective than that of most advertisers for legitimate products.

Crack is thought to have first appeared in the early 1980s on the west coast. In late 1983 it turned up in the Bronx, a New York City borough, and by 1985 the Washington Heights section of Upper Manhattan was known as the city's "crack capital."

Since then, said Sterling Johnson, the city's special narcotics prosecutor, it's spread quickly. Crack is king in the Liberty city

section of Miami, in Philadelphia's Hunting park and in central south Los Angeles. On some corners of Manhattan's scruffy lower East Side, where young men used to sell marijuana, teen-agers now sell crack.

An estimated 200,000 people in metropolitan New York, and several million around the U.S., have used the drug. Most clinics and referral services now say a majority of reported drug problems involve crack.

But crack's reputation as the drug of the young, first-time user has been exaggerated, experts say.

Daniel Langdon of Phoenix House, a New York drug rehabilitation centre, says that almost everyone has taken other drugs before using crack.

Most are aged 20 to 30, he said. "All too much has been made of teen use," agreed Washton, who says crack's primary harm is that it often turns "cocaine users into cocaine addicts" within months.

Chronic users complain of paranoia, and 40 per cent in one hotline survey reported stealing to buy crack.

"People get involved in things they wouldn't do otherwise," ranging from skipping work to prostitution, Langdon said. "They're horrified later when they realise what they did while they were on a binge."

The most conspicuous sign of the crack boom is the proliferation of places where it can be bought and used.

The houses are particularly popular in southern Florida and greater New York, where hundreds have sprung up. There are more base houses in some neighbourhoods than there are churches or liquor stores," Johnson said.

At many base houses, users buy the processed crack, rent a pipe and smoke it there. Because the drug lends itself to binges, some people stay for hours or days. Although such houses have been compared to opium dens, Langdon says a more apt comparison is to the heroin shooting gallery.

But the houses apparently appeal to those with no other place to smoke crack, including teen-agers still living at home.

In Miami, many base houses are staffed by young people paid several hundred dollars a day. Security measures may include a steel-plated front door, guards with automatic weapons and a vat of acid for destroying the evidence.

Los Angeles police have used an armoured personnel carrier with a steel plate mounted on a boom to punch holes through the walls of fortified "rock houses." And New York mayor Edward Koch announced creation of a 101-officer police unit to crack down on the houses.

But prospects for crack's control seem dim.

"Anybody can make it in their kitchen," said Robert Strang of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. "It can be converted at such a low level, there's no major organisation for us to go after."

The government's basic strategy — to seize cocaine at the border — is widely viewed as hopeless. "I just got back from South America, and they say cocaine is flowing into this country like water through a sieve," Johnson said.

Curiosity bolsters Nicaragua's tourism

By Carl Manning
The Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — U.S. hostility toward Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government is stimulating a curiosity that is bringing in foreign visitors and badly needed dollars, Tourism Minister Herty Lewittes says.

"Every day, Nicaragua is in the world news and that makes more people interested in the country," Lewittes said in an interview. "People say, 'let's go and see,' and then they come and see."

Lewittes added that 38,900 tourists came to Nicaragua last year with a larger number expected for 1986. The majority are Europeans and Americans.

He declined to say how much money the tourists left in the country in 1985, but estimated it could amount to as much as \$10 million this year.

Every dollar Nicaragua can get is a bonus for its starving economy.

Foreigners arriving at Managua's Sandino International Airport are required to exchange \$60 into the local currency at the official rate, far below what they can get once in the city.

Lewittes believes tourism will become one of the country's few growth industries this year.

The government is planning to enlarge the Intercontinental hotel in Managua from 220 rooms to 485 over the next three years.

Additionally, Lewittes said, the government is converting Montelmar on the Pacific coast, a resort once favoured by the late dictator Anastasio Somoza and his associates, from a military base into a 375-room complex complete with airport.

Lewittes said the \$40 million

project will include a gambling casino.

Plans call for the resort to cover about three square miles, with an eight-storey luxury hotel, nearly 50 cabanas, six tennis courts, a golf course, conference rooms, bars and restaurants.

"It is very important to develop tourism at this time," Lewittes said. "We need the dollars to pay the bills."

The more affluent tourists stay at the Intercontinental hotel, which is in the shape of a Mayan pyramid and before the Sandinistas took over was a retreat for the late American billionaire Howard Hughes.

The government owns 70 per cent of the hotel. The newstand is filled with pro-Sandinista literature, and its restaurants feature items not always available elsewhere in this food-short capital.

Most visitors are students, known locally as the "knapsack pack" because the attire for most consists of shorts, sandals, T-shirts and a backpack. Among the others are college professors, political activists and the curious.

"We sell the country and the political philosophy," Lewittes said. "You can come here for political education or for a vacation to relax."

The tours include the option of talking to Sandinista leaders and hearing explanations of their policies.

Lewittes said many visitors "come here expecting to see a war in streets, but, of course, it's peaceful here."

The Sandinistas' war against U.S.-backed contra guerrillas is in the mountains and rural areas in northern and central Nicaragua — areas not on any of the tours.

Italians reap the harvest of thriving cooperatives

By Tony Austin
Reuters

FAENZA, Italy — An agricultural cooperative in east central Italy has transformed a struggling province into a thriving and prosperous farming community.

In 1959 fruit was selling for less than it cost to produce and scores of families were leaving the land, when 21 smallholders in desperation set up the cooperative in Faenza, in the province of Emilia Romagna.

Now, the Produttori Agricoli Faentini (PAF) is the largest agricultural cooperative in Western Europe with 2,500 members and last year it had a turnover of 76 billion lire (\$50 million). Faenza peaches are still gently picked by hand by individual farmers, but a vast, semi-automatic machine at a purpose-built processing plant on the edge of Faenza now sorts and packs the fruit for export to West Germany, Britain and Scandinavia.

Peaches and nectarines accounted for more than half the PAF's annual production of 140,000 tons in 1985 and this figure is forecast to rise to 175,000 tons by 1989.

The cooperative gives technical help and advice to members as well as marketing the apples, pears, persimmons, apricots and other soft fruit they produce.

It owns a wine-bottling plant and four warehouses besides the Faenza headquarters, and in 1985 employed 67 full-time staff and 1,200 casual workers.

Pope John Paul, who inspected the Faenza plant this month, said the "church" strongly encouraged

cooperatives because they brought together capital and labour in a harmonious relationship.

The Faenza cooperative is just one of many in Emilia Romagna, whose magic touch in making cooperatives work has been taken as the model for similar ventures in Nigeria and Zimbabwe, according to officials of the provincial cooperative movement.

"Cooperation is in our blood in this part of Italy," Giuseppe Matteucci, who organises a social work cooperative in Ravenna, another town in the province, told a reporter. "We think it is quite simply the best way to get things done."

The Italian cooperative movement began in Romagna more than 100 years ago, spreading from agriculture to ceramics, banking, building, plant hire, specialised community services, and consumer retailing.

Officials said cooperatives were responsible for more than one third of all economic activity in Emilia Romagna, competing with firms such as Parmalat and Ravenna-based Ferruzzi in the production of meat and dairy products.

The collective movement found fertile soil in the province, which is largely controlled by the Italian Communist Party, but officials say Roman Catholicism and the local republican party have also contributed to its growth.

From 59 cooperatives in Italy in 1856, the movement now counts more than 80,000 associated groups in the whole country after a steady expansion halted only during Benito Mussolini's fascist dictatorship from 1922 to 1943.

Matteucci said some local authorities preferred to sub-contract their social obligations like care of the elderly, handicapped and sick to professionally trained work collectives, rather than hire their own staff.

He said one social work unit in Ravenna, besides carrying out socially useful work which had previously been left to volunteers, had also created jobs for 280

young people.

Carefully tended kiwi trees, a fruit successfully introduced from New Zealand, spread in neat rows across the flat, irrigated farmland around Faenza, are among the successes of the cooperative's investment in new techniques.

PAF officials say they also plan to cultivate cherries, plums and exotic soft fruits while reducing the percentage of wine grapes and

Poverty is far from beaten in China's north

By Graham Earnshaw
Reuters

LIANGPING, China — Millions of people in this poverty-stricken part of north China live in caves dug into the brown hillsides. They are too poor even to afford the luxury of a mud hut.

Home for Liang Chaorong and his family is a cave which he helped dig 40 years ago in the hill above the patch of bare earth which serves as a meeting place for the 200 people of Liangping.

"The cave is a good place to live," said 51-year-old Liang. "It is cool in the summer and warm in the winter. But it gets muddy when it rains."

His wife and six children busied themselves around their home, a vaulting six metres high, two metres across, and driven about 10 metres back into the hill.

Much of the floor is taken up with a brick "kang," the fire-heated platform on which the family sleeps and lives during the bitter winters. But the cave is clean and is lit by a small lightbulb.

"Life is better than it was a few

years ago," Liang said. "With the present open policy of our government, we can plant what we like."

Asked if his family had enough food and clothes, he said: "We have some problems with this, but there is no way out."

Indeed, there is not. Liang said his income was only 70 yuan (\$22) a year, about a third of the amount chosen to represent the national poverty line — 200 yuan (\$63) a year.

About 100 million of China's one billion people live below this line, and Liangping is in one of the poorest areas of the country's poorest province, Gansu.

Officials here say a quarter of the province's 20 million people live in poverty and need government help to stay alive.

Half the villages of Gansu do not have electricity. In the eastern part of the province about half the people live in caves.

The landscape is yellow-brown as far as the eye can see and desperately dry. It is a wonder that any crops grow at all.

But an official said: "This is not

really a poor village compared to some other parts of eastern Gansu."

Liang agreed: "We are not the poorest. There are people much poorer than we are."

Another official in Lanzhou, the provincial capital 80 km to the north of Liangping, said no one had starved to death in Gansu since the "three terrible years" of 1959-1961 when harvests failed and millions died of starvation across China.

"But we have to provide food for people in the poorest areas of Gansu, particularly in the mountainous parts of the south and the eastern areas," said Zhao Lin, deputy chief of the provincial committee set up last year to combat poverty.

This year, he said, Gansu will spend the equivalent of \$125 million on fighting poverty.

About \$22 million of this will go on direct handouts of clothing and food to poor peasants. Most of the rest will be spent on irrigation and other projects aimed at increasing food production.

But some areas are incapable of

supporting their population and the government has begun a programme of moving people from their family homes in hopeless areas to more hospitable parts of the province.

Liang said he had been to visit a more fertile area 1,000 km to the northwest where the government says he would be able to eke out a better living than he does in Liangping.

"I would like to move but my children want to stay here," he said.

Zhao Lin said about 50,000 people had been shifted under the migration scheme since 1983 but 550,000 more may have to move to new areas.

"Migration is voluntary. Representatives of the people are taken to the new area to see it before they decide. Sometimes whole villages go together, sometimes 10 or 20 families," he said.

But some peasants prefer to stay in the caves where they were born, living in desperate poverty they know rather than moving to a strange area even if they are told they will be more prosperous.

Zico still a question mark for Brazil side

By Terry Leonard
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Brazil coach Tele Santana said superstar Zico is in poor condition and might not play in the World Cup, and the Portuguese team boycotted a practice game Sunday in a dispute over tournament bonuses.

Brazil, Italy, Argentina, West Germany and Spain registered victories in practice matches Sunday. All are among the pre-tournament favorites.

Zico was kept out of a practice game Sunday and Santana said the attacking midfielder's physical fitness "did not justify" including him in the World Cup lineup. Zico, who has been nursing a nagging knee injury, had said after a practice game Thursday he felt "80 per cent fit" to play.

The Portuguese players did not show up Sunday for their scheduled practice match in Monterrey with the amateur team Los Tigres de Nuevo Leon.

Cesar Cesar Gracieu, the secretary general of the Portuguese Soccer Federation, said the boycott was a protest by players who "want more money for their World Cup performances."

Soccer federations and players usually agree in advance on bonuses to be paid as the team advances through the tournament.

Gracieu said both sides "are negotiating an agreement" and that the dispute would not affect preparation for Portugal's first World Cup match against England on June 3.

Italy looked sloppy Sunday while taking a 4-0 win in warm-up game in Mexico City with Gua-

temala. Coach Enzo Bearkoti said the defending champions "have a long way to go to be ready" for Saturday's opening game with Bulgaria.

However, Argentina coach Carlos Biardo pronounced his team in great shape for the tournament after watching them crush the Argentine club Renato Cesarini 6-0 in Mexico City.

Italy and Argentina are in Group A with South Korea and Bulgaria.

Argentina kept star striker Diego Maradona out of its match to avoid injury, and key defender Daniel Pasarella was rested for a fourth straight day because of a stomach ailment. However, team doctor Raul Madero said Pasarella could return to training Monday.

Santana, after Brazil beat the University of Guadalajara 3-1, said he was very satisfied with the defensive line. Casagrande scored two goals and Careca scored the other.

Brazil plays in Group D against Spain, Algeria and Northern Ireland.

West Germany managed only a 2-1 win in Morelia over the local club Atletico Morelia in a warm-up game that coach Franz Beckenbauer said was a chance for his team to adapt to the Latin Ame-

rican style of play.

West Germany and Uruguay open Group E competition June 4, the same day the other group rivals Denmark and Scotland clash.

Spain played two practice matches Sunday, beating the Mexican youth team 4-2 with two goals from Eloy and others from Senor and Rincon; and defeating the local Angeles De Puebla team 3-1 on goals by Caldere, Julio Salinas and Michel.

Iraq, on goals from Ali Hussein and Ahmed Radi, managed a 2-2 draw in a practice game Sunday in Toluca against the Mexico City team Club America.

Meanwhile, French coach Henri Michel on Sunday blasted the new World Cup rules on the use of substitutes and said coaches should be able to nominate all 11 players on the bench as substitutes instead of the usual five.

"It's completely idiotic, it makes me sick," said Michel.

"What FIFA has done shows a lack of respect for the players, six of them will be there merely as spectators," said Michel, referring to the international soccer federation.

He said the coaches had agreed unanimously two months ago that they should be allowed to choose substitutes from all 11 players on the bench.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said, "We have our own rules and our own procedures. We know the coaches agreed, but it was not possible to make the required changes in time for Mexico."

The English team arrived in Monterrey on Sunday and coach Bobby Robson said he still had doubts about the fitness of team captain Bryan Robson, who is suffering from shoulder and leg injuries.

"We hope to know a little more about Bryan's fitness tomorrow when we hope he can join us for training," said the coach.



Zico is still a question mark for the Brazil side in the World Cup finals

As if Brazil isn't enough, Algeria battles bad shoes

GUADALAJARA, Mexico City (AP) — Algeria is getting new shoes for its soccer players after Mexican-made footwear rubbed blisters on their heels during practice for the World Cup playoffs.

Goalkeeper Mehdi Cerbah limped off the field during an intra-squad match Sunday, and coach Rabah Saadane said the feet of several other players were rubbed raw by the stiff heels of their new soccer boots.

The blisters were an unexpected irritation for the Algerians, who anticipate enough trouble from strong Group D rivals Brazil, Northern Ireland and Spain, and were just getting over jet lag and acclimating themselves to the Mexican heat.

Saadane told reporters that the

playing shoes, supplied by Adidas under a contract with the Algerian Football Association, had harder heels than Adidas footwear made outside Mexico.

He said Adidas agreed to bring in a different model for the remaining preparations before the Algerians' opening match June 3 against Northern Ireland in their second World Cup.

Saadane said his players had no problem with Guadalajara's 1,560-metre altitude or its spicy food.

"Their morale is very good," the coach said. "All they need now are some new shoes and a victory."

The legend with the Achilles heel

By Sergio Leitao
Reader

MEXICO CITY — Soccer coach Modesto Bria looked at the skinny 14-year-old and, turning to the man he had come with, said: "I thought you said you were bringing me a footballer, yet you've brought me a jockey."

The year was 1967 and the boy was Zico, to become one of the world's greatest players and whose epic lifetime struggle against adversity is continuing here as he battles to be fully fit for the World Cup finals.

Celso Garcia, a journalist who first spotted Zico's talent, was responsible for taking him to meet Bria, a coach to Rio club Flamengo's junior league teams.

More out of kindness than anything else, Bria told Zico to pull his boots on and join a practice match. Zico was changed in three minutes but Bria was in no hurry to send him on. There were only 20 minutes left and his team were 2-0 down when Zico took the field.

"Hey boy, what's your name again?" asked Bria. "My name is Arthur, but everyone calls me Zico," came the reply.

At last on the pitch, Zico found no one would pass to him and it was five minutes before he managed to gain possession in mid-field. He decided to go it alone and after dribbling past three defenders, he slipped the ball between the goalkeeper's legs into the net.

"When I received the ball, I was too far from the net," Zico recalls, 19 years and 703 professional goals later. "Somehow I felt that if I tried a combination with another player he would probably fail to pass me the ball back. So I decided to do it all by myself. It worked."

"After that goal I saw many people who were watching started

to give me incentives. 'Pass the ball to the little blond,' I could hear them say." Zico scored two more goals, created another and his team won 4-2.

Among those watching was George Helal, a top Flamengo official. "Let's sign him now," he said, "the under-16 team have an important match on Sunday."

But first Zico's family had to be consulted and although his father, Jose Antunes, and mother, Matilde, were staunch Flamengo followers in defiance of the tradition of Portuguese immigrants to support Vasco De Gama, a family gathering had to be convened before a decision could be made.

Two of Zico's brothers, Antunes and Edu, were already well-known professionals in Brazil, playing for First Division club America.

"I never wanted to take Zico to play for America because I knew my father's dream had always been to see a son playing for Flamengo," Edu once said in an interview.

He also recalls: "In 1967 when Antunes and I were in great form, combining to score several goals for America, people would often ask which of us was better. Our answer was inevitably the same: 'Neither one of us. The best in our family is yet to come. It's Zico.'"

Zico's full name is Arthur Antunes Coimbra. Ever since he can remember people have called him Zico, the short for Arthurzico or little Zico.

Helal easily convinced the family that Zico should join Flamengo and quickly solved the problem of the 30-kilometre journey the boy would have to make from the northern-Rio suburb of Quintino.

"I'll have him picked up at school every day, will take him to lunch and then someone will drive him home after practice," Helal said. So Flamengo signed a player

who was to become the club's record goal scorer and one of the game's outstanding performers.

One of the few major honours that has eluded Zico is a World Cup winners' medal.

But Zico is philosophical. "Sometimes, depending on the circumstances, winning a junior league title is just as important as conquering the World Cup. If I never win a World Cup my merits will remain," he said recently.

For the past eight years he has had to contend with a succession of injuries. His problems started in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina when he pulled a leg muscle in Brazil's match with Poland. Brazil won 3-1 but Zico took no further part in the tournament.

One year later he pulled the same muscle again and was out of action for 10 weeks.

When he moved to Italy to play for Udinese in 1983 he enjoyed early success but then more injuries cropped up and he returned to Brazil in August last year.

In his third game back for Flamengo he was the victim of a vicious foul and as a result needed surgery on his left knee.

"The difference is that when you think only of playing the ball these days you're in trouble," Zico says. "Some opponents have adapted to grabbing and holding, sometimes kicking you from behind without hardly any punishment or interference from the referees. No wonder fans are disappearing from the stadiums."

Zico returned to action after surgery three months later. It was a spectacular comeback, three goals in a 4-1 victory over old rivals Fluminense at the Maracana.

He is, however, happier now that his knee will hold out during the finals. "I feel better and hope I'll make it until the end of the cup without a recurrence to my knee injury."

France takes home tennis World Team Cup

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — France won the World Team Cup tennis tournament Sunday by beating Sweden 2-1 in the first all-European final in the \$500,000 contest's eight-year history.

Henri Leconte set them on the winning road defeating Anders Jarryd 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 but Mats Wilander pulled Sweden level by win-

ning the second singles 6-1, 6-4 against Thierry Tulasne.

Then Jarryd's inability to hold serve in the decisive doubles match with Wilander against Leconte and Guy Forget cost Sweden the trophy. The French pair won 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

The opening singles marked the first time Leconte and Jarryd had ever met and the Swede found it

hard going to adjust his predominantly baseline game to the Frenchman's forcing tactics.

By the time he was close to an answer the first set was over.

Jarryd's cool, methodical tennis, highlighted by some beautifully-timed lobs and fine passing shots, came into its own in the second set when he achieved a decisive break to go 5-3 up and he squared the match with a fine backhand passing shot down the line.

But Leconte would not be denied. In the third set he pounced on Jarryd's second serve and pounded winners to both corners of the court. He broke the Swede twice and screamed with joy when Jarryd hit the last ball of the match out.

Victory gave France the \$200,000 first prize, with Sweden picking up \$100,000.

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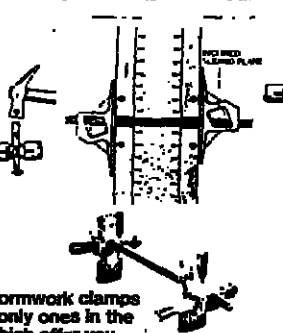
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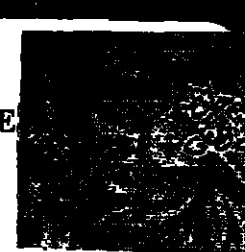
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Weekend death toll reaches 21 in S. African townships

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Police on Monday reported four deaths during the night in unrest in black townships, raising the official weekend death toll to 21.

In addition, two blacks were killed and eight of their relatives injured Sunday in a land mine explosion on a farm near Davel, 160 kilometres east of Johannesburg.

Police said a second land mine was found by security forces nearby and detonated safely.

Two of the latest victims were killed in Chesterville township near Durban, according to police, who said one was set afire and the other hacked to death.

The other two victims reportedly were hacked to death at the township of Douglas Colliery in the eastern Transvaal.

Police had previously reported 17 deaths in township unrest starting Friday night. Their figures did not include five people reported killed in Soweto, outside Johannesburg, during weekend clashes between two militant

anti-apartheid groups.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the land mine explosion.

In mid-April, three people in the Breyten district near Davel were wounded in two separate land mine explosions, and police blamed guerrillas of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement.

The threat of further guerrilla mine laying was one of the reasons cited by the government as justification for its widely criticised raids last Monday on alleged ANC targets in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana.

Police, in their report on the violence in black townships, said the deaths of five men were found in KwaMashu township near the port city of Durban. No details were given, but last week six men in KwaMashu were reported killed in clashes between a Zulu vigilante group and militant youths.

The other deaths reported Sunday included men burned to death

in Nyanga, near Cape Town; Soweto, near Johannesburg, and Kwanobule and Joza, both in eastern Cape province.

South African Press Association said five people were killed and six houses were burned in Soweto when youths went on a rampage Saturday. The news agency said the deaths, not listed by police in their daily reports, stemmed from clashes between rival groups of anti-apartheid militants.

The news agency said also that second-year college student Nokuzola Nduna died after jumping through a third-floor window in her dormitory when police allegedly began assaulting students at Lennox Sebe College of Education in the homeland of Ciskei.

Attempts to telephone Ciskei police Sunday were unsuccessful. The agency quoted an unidentified police spokesman as saying he could neither confirm or deny the report of police action on the campus.

According to the South African Press Association, the incident occurred after students distributed an open letter protesting a planned concert at the campus

by a male choir from Wales.

"As South Africa is internationally isolated as far as sporting and cultural activities are concerned, we expect every progressive country to take part in this isolation," the letter said. "We reject totally your presence and we treat it with the contempt it deserves."

Meanwhile two far-right leaders Sunday called on the government to resign, saying its weakness was exposed last week at a rally disrupted by white extremists.

The confrontation occurred Thursday when hundreds of members of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (Afrikaner Resistance Movement) overran a meeting hall and forced Foreign Minister R.F. Botha to cancel a planned speech to supporters of his National Party (NP).

Eugene Terreblanche, the leader of the extremist group, and Clive Derby-Lewis, a member of parliament for the Conservative Party, issued a statement Sunday describing the incident in the northern city of Pietersburg as "the beginning of the end" for the National Party.

Japan moves closer to early polls

TOKYO (R) — Early general elections in Japan appeared almost certain Monday after Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone won agreement from rivals in his faction-ridden party to recall parliament from its summer recess.

A parliament in session could then be dissolved, enabling Mr. Nakasone to call elections for the lower house at the same time as upper house polls scheduled for July.

The decision was announced after Mr. Nakasone met the top five leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). "Everything went well. Party unity has been achieved," he told reporters.

Mr. Nakasone said the extraordinary session was needed to deal with the impact on the Japanese economy of the yen's rapid rise, but analysts said this was a just pretext.

The recall would clear the way for Mr. Nakasone to hold lower house elections 18 months ahead of schedule, they said.

A cabinet spokesman said the recall date would be decided at Tuesday's cabinet meeting.

The LDP won a resounding victory in 1980 in the last, and only dual election. After a setback in the 1983 poll, it now has 258 seats in the 511-member lower house but eight are held by an LDP-splitter group, the New Liberal Club.

Speculation surrounding Mr. Nakasone's intentions has mounted throughout the year as the prime minister, one of the most popular since World War II, neared the end of his second two-year term as LDP leader.

LDP rules prohibit a third term. But some analysts predicted that Mr. Nakasone would seek to change the rules to enable him to stay on as party leader, and therefore prime minister, after his term expires on Oct. 30.

The analysts noted that this had been a major cause of dissension in the party, with rivals fearing that a big LDP victory at the polls would boost Mr. Nakasone's political standing and strengthen his claims to retain power.

Mr. Nakasone, who has not explicitly ruled out a bid to remain party leader, said Monday the five LDP leaders did not refer to this during the two meetings needed to reach agreement on recalling parliament.

Sri Lanka strengthens security around villages

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka strengthened security around isolated Sinhalese villages on the east coast Monday after Tamil separatist guerrillas killed 32 people on the weekend.

Defence Secretary General Sepala Attiyagale ordered a review of security arrangements in the region which separatists want included in a Tamil nation taking in one-quarter of the nation.

"We are having an emergency look at things," Attiyagale told reporters.

He said after the attacks security forces were on alert across the country because of signs rebels planned more raids to disrupt peace talks.

"Anything can be expected in the present environment," he said.

Siripura village, site of the worst attack in which 20 people including 10 children were massacred, was guarded by only two militia soldiers for the 1,000 residents.

Attiyagale said the country's security forces were spread so wide by the hit-and-run attacks that protection could not be given to every village.

President Jayewardene's son Ravi, his personal security adviser, who accompanied the general on a tour of the region hours after the guerrillas struck, said the attacks were part of a wider conspiracy than establishment of a separate Tamil nation.

"Fundamentally it is a Communist insurgency against the

state," he told reporters.

He said the Trincomalee region was a key guerrilla objective because it included the east coast's only deep water port of Trincomalee.

Replying to criticism from India that security operations were the main threat to peace talks, Mr. Jayewardene said the government had a responsibility to protect its citizens.

"You can't just let everyone be massacred and pull back into camps," he said.

India, which is mediating talks between Sri Lanka and the separatists, has said Colombo's military operations in the guerrilla stronghold of the Jaffna peninsula, made New Delhi wonder if negotiations were worth pursuing.

Meanwhile a Tamil guerrilla group warned multinational companies to pull out of Sri Lanka or face attacks on their plants, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

PTI said the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS), one of five main groups fighting for an independent Tamil state in north and east Sri Lanka, issued its warning Saturday in a statement from its offices in the south Indian city of Madras.

It said a May 20 bomb attack on a partly Japanese-owned cement factory in eastern Sri Lanka was a warning to multi-national companies to stop "swindling" the people and leave the island immediately.



Prisoner escapes by helicopter

PARIS (AP) — A helicopter flew into La Sante Prison in Paris Monday, picked up a 34-year-old prisoner and flew him out, official sources said. A second prisoner also tried to escape, but was caught. Officials identified the escapee as Michael Vanjour, who was serving an 18-year sentence. The prisoner who tried to escape and failed was initially identified only as Hernandez. A witness near the prison who saw the escape said the helicopter hovered over a building for four or five minutes. "It was about 10-45 when an Alouette helicopter hovered over a building where two men in warm-up suits crouched," said the witness. "One of the men in a blue and red warm-up suit then grabbed one of the skids of the helicopter. Another man dressed in yellow remained on the roof of the building. The scene lasted four to five minutes. The guards did not immediately react because (the prisoners) were blocked by a chimney and they did not shoot."

Rowers demonstrate to save Venice

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Nine hundred boats carrying 4,000 rowers sailed down Venice's Grand Canal and around its islands to press for anti-pollution laws to protect the lagoon city. The non-competitive rowing event, called the Vogalonga, was started 12 years ago and is now staged annually by local and foreign rowers who want to draw attention to the damage caused by motor boats. "The wake from motor boats destroys house foundations, gondolas, bridges, but preventive measures are not taken despite numerous appeals and complaints," organisers said in a statement.

Perfumed mother of 8 held in drug bust

PALERMO, Sicily (AP) — A woman who doused herself with perfume to conceal the scent of heroin she was carrying was caught anyway by drug-sniffing dogs. Italian newspapers have said. The newspapers, quoting police reports, said Vincenza Cali, 40, was arrested on drug smuggling charges Saturday when she was stopped with 1-2 kilograms of pure heroin strapped in plastic bags around her waist. They said she was on her way to New York to visit relatives when stopped at Punta Raisi Airport in Palermo. Her husband also was taken into custody for questioning, the newspapers said.

More relics found in duke's tomb

PEKING (AP) — Archaeologists have unearthed more than 200 valuable relics in the past two weeks from the 2,600-year-old tomb of a Chin Dynasty duke, a news report said Sunday. The tomb of the Duke of Jin, in Shanxi province's Fengxiang county, is the largest burial chamber found in a China this century. More than 2,000 relics were unearthed from it in early May. The overseas edition of the official People's Daily (renmin ribao) said the artifacts found recently are all valuable and include objects of gold, jade, bronze, pottery and lacquer. The report said archaeologists have had difficulty clearing the tomb because of recent rains and because the tomb walls have crumbled. The collapse may be the oldest evidence of an earthquake occurring in China, official news reports have said.

3 Soviet officials fired for corruption

MOSCOW (AP) — Three senior officials of a Moscow district have been fired for diverting state funds and materials from public building projects for use in remodeling their own homes, a newspaper has reported. Moskovskaya Pravda reported that the three, all Communist Party members, also received strict reprimands from their local party organization. First deputy chairman of the Perovo Regional Government, V.D. Voronov, and Deputy Chairman V.V. Gankin and V.A. Rosikhin, were dismissed after an investigation showed "improper actions and abuses," the newspaper said. Soviet media have reported numerous outcries of party and government officials throughout the country over the past year in a campaign to halt corruption and misuse of authority.

Barco wins Colombian presidential polls

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Liberal Party leader Virgilio Barco, a 64-year-old dentist, was elected president of Colombia for a four-year term, according to official results.

With 70 per cent of official returns in, Mr. Barco won 3.36 million votes, a 58 per cent share of the eight million expected votes and 1 million more than his Conservative opponent, Alvaro Gomez who admitted his defeat.

"National Register Offices figures indicate that Virgilio Barco will be the next president," Mr. Gomez said Sunday night in a broadcast message.

Computer forecasts gave Mr. Barco 58 per cent of the final vote against 35 per cent for Mr. Gomez and 5 per cent for Communist Jaime Fardo Leal of the Patriotic Union Party set up by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group.

In a statement delivered to a packed audience, Mr. Barco said he had received an "unequivocal mandate for change," and pledged to get to work immediately in order to ensure a smooth transition of government.

"Democracy received an impressive approval, Colombia said it wants to live in peace," he said.

Mr. Barco, a shy man and poor orator who often seems to be searching for his words, asked the Conservatives to participate in his government with the share that will correspond them.

In Colombia's political system, the two dominant parties traditionally share power irrespective of election results, a situation often blamed for the voters being notoriously apathetic.

The elections were called to choose a successor to Conservative President Belisario Betancur, whose term ends on Aug. 7. Mr. Betancur said he would personally come and congratulate the president-elect.

In a radio and television broadcast, the outgoing head of state said "the flag of Colombia has fallen in good and firm hands."

The Patriotic Union showing was believed to be the best result ever by the left in both congressional or presidential elections and one high ranking European diplomat told Reuters "it would undoubtedly have a bearing on the peace process."

Mr. Betancur initiated the peace process in 1982 with a wide-ranging amnesty and followed with the signing of a truce with the main rebel groups in

1984. Only the FARC are still adhering to the peace pact although their members have not laid down their arms.

Extra military police and troops patrolled the streets and were posted near potential insurgent targets during the voting Sunday.

Despite the military presence, the atmosphere was one of a colourful carnival with groups of noisy youths chanting slogans and driving around in cars festooned with banners of their favourite, red for Mr. Barco, multi-coloured for Mr. Gomez.

Diplomats said the showing of the Patriotic Union could determine the future of the bold peace process initiated by Mr. Betancur.

The new president will face the thorny issue of how to convince FARC members to lay down their arms and must contend with the M-19 guerrilla movement, which is believed to have regrouped after their seizure of the National Palace last year that killed nearly 100 people.

Mr. Barco pledged to pursue the same goal as Mr. Betancur but with a different, more direct approach which, however, he did not outline.

Barnala prepares to battle terrorism

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — The chief minister of troubled Punjab state ended a penance Monday ordered by Sikh high priests. He said it strengthened him for the stepped-up battle against Sikh terrorism.

Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, a Sikh, offered prayers and paid a fine to conclude the week-long penance for ordering an April 30 raid on the Golden Temple to drive out Sikh extremists. The temple is the holiest Sikh shrine.

Mr. Barnala said the penance, which started and ended at the temple and included during the shoes of Sikh pilgrims, steered him for the battle against terrorism.

"I think it was a boon for self-purification," he said. "It has given me greater internal strength to tackle this problem in Punjab."

More than 75 people have died in terrorist incidents in the Punjab since the raid, which Sikh militants vowed to avenge. The death toll includes three people gunned down over the weekend.

Mr. Barnala said 27,000 police and paramilitary troops were now stationed in Punjab in a stepped-up campaign against terrorism.

"We have undertaken larger activity for dealing with terrorism," he said. "This kind of activity is picking up. We are making extensive operations against terrorism."

To complete his penance, Mr. Barnala paid a fine of 501 rupees (about \$41), gave an offering of sweets worth 101 rupees (\$8), and prayed for about 45 minutes.

An announcement was then read declaring the chief minister exonerated by the temple's five high priests. The moderate high priests had been reinstated in the temple after the raid.

Separated from the praying Barnala by plainclothes police was a small group of opposition Sikhs holding prayers about 10 yards.

"Sikh temples taken over by traitors will be liberated," one of the opposition priests said. Mr. Barnala later told reporters that police were gradually being withdrawn from the temple complex and would be replaced by a volunteer force of former soldiers being trained and armed by the state government.

Aquino names 5 pro-Marcos deputies to constitutional body

MANILA (AP) — The government announced the appointment Monday of five supporters of ex-President Ferdinand Marcos to a 50-member commission that will write a new constitution.

President Corason Aquino had promised five seats for Marcos supporters "in the spirit of reconciliation." She established the constitutional commission to draft a new charter and pave the way for legislative and provincial elections, major steps in reforming the political system left by Marcos.

One of the five Marcos appointees was once a top member of his cabinet. A spokesman for Mrs. Aquino said former Labour Minister Blas Ople nominated himself, along with four former assemblymen, and Mrs. Aquino was accepting them.

This left vacant one slot. It was to go to a member of a pro-Marcos church, the Iglesia Ni Kristo, but remained unnamed after crowds booed the idea when Mrs. Aquino announced it on Sunday.

The four others nominated by Ople were former Deputy Defence Minister Teodoro Natividad and ex-assemblymen Alejandro Almendares, Regalado Maamang, and Rustico De Los Reyes.

Ople and Natividad were also members of the Marcos-controlled National Assembly. Ople was one of Marcos' closest advisers and political strategists. Regarded as a maverick in the Marcos cabinet for his occasional criticism of the previous regime, Ople is widely believed to have presidential aspirations.

Marcos bypassed him and instead chose his former Foreign Minister Arturo Tolentino as his vice presidential running mate in the Feb. 7 election. Charges of election fraud triggered a civilian-backed military revolt that ousted Marcos three weeks later.

Ople, in his letter to Mrs. Aquino's executive secretary Monday, said he would have nominated Tolentino had it not been for Tolentino's announced refusal to sit on the commission.

Hands Across America successful despite broken chain

NEW YORK (AP) — The reach of hands across America could not match its grasp, but gaps in the cross-country line didn't stop the millions who turned out from having an awfully good time. Some were moved to tears.

Local organisers estimated that upwards of 4.9 million Americans joined in the effort on behalf of the hungry and the homeless on Sunday, and except for two people overcome by the heat in Arizona, no one suffered anything worse than disappointment about breaks in the line between New York and Long Beach, California.

"This is just the beginning," top organiser Ken Kragen said in New York. "When today is over, roll up your sleeves and go out to work in your community. We have to move from the big event to the person on the street."

Hands Across America still has to count up the money — it hoped to earn \$50 million or more — and then figure out how to spend it. The organisation said 90 per cent would go for innovative self-help projects for the needy.

"If anyone had any doubts, we hope they now know it's a suc-

cess," said Marty Rogol, the executive director of USA For Africa. Hands Across America at first asked everyone in line to donate \$10, but in the rush to fill the line organisers gave envelopes to late-comers and hoped they would come through with some cash.

The event brought out celebrities and politicians, kids and a few people over 100 years old, the wealthy and the destitute. U.S. President Ronald Reagan lined up on the White House grounds, and protesters queued up outside.

In rural Frederick County, Maryland, Clyde C. Grossnickel used three prize bulls to help fill the line, and attracted so much attention that "we could hardly get our arms up," the 71-year-old farmer said.

There were five weddings in the line, two killer whales and one penguin, not to mention Mickey, Goofy and Pluto on line at Disneyland.

At Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, at least 15 patients, many in wheelchairs or casts, joined hands in the lobby. "This sounds corny, but there was a feeling in the air knowing

that people were linked up 4,000 miles across America," said Philip T. Zeni of Little Rock, who helped direct activities outside Children's Hospital. "There were people out there with tears in their eyes, there were people out there laughing at the top of their lungs."

If the 4.9 million figure is correct, it is about half-a-million people fewer than it would have taken to cover the entire distance. But the line was thick at both ends and in several cities and thin on the prairies and deserts. Gaps were covered with ropes and ribbons.

"Now we'll have a chance to focus on some very serious issues," said Brad Senden, Hands Across America state director. "The people working in the state's shelters and pantries feel very good about today. ... Overall, I think it gave people a sense that they can do impossible things."

In Arcadia, Indiana, 30 handicapped children from the Arcadia Children's Home, 12 of them in wheelchairs, participated in the event. One wore an Uncle Sam hat while another was dressed as the Statue of Liberty.

New Mexico's estimated turnout of 238,000 people wasn't nearly enough to complete the line, but it represented an impressive 17 per cent of the state's population. However, many people came from Colorado and Texas, and at least two young women drove from Massachusetts.

In Schellsburg, Pennsylvania, population 600, there were 2,000 people in line.

The Pacific end of the line was anchored by Bill Jones, 34, his wife, Mary, 25, and their five children, who live in a shelter for the homeless.

"I think it's just incredible and I hope this feeling carries on," Jones said. "There is a real need. There are many families worse off than us."

Six-year-old Amy Sherwood of Brooklyn, whose mother is on welfare and whose father has disappeared, anchored the New York end of the line. "I had fun dancing and singing and looking at the big statue," she said, looking toward the Statue of Liberty across the water.

Vehicle exhaust fumes cause cancer, experts say

By Andrew Veitch

LONDON — Car exhaust fumes can cause cancer, an environment conference was told recently, yet the British Government is refusing to implement an EC directive to cut poisonous exhaust fumes.

In Britain more than 3,000 men a year die from lung cancer caused by air pollution, mostly from vehicle exhausts, said Dr. Robin Russell Jones, chairman of Friends of the Earth's pollution committee.

Hydrocarbons, including benz-a-pyrene, the cancer-causing agent in cigarette smoke, are responsible, he told the International Environment and Safety conference in Birmingham recently.

Mrs. Lynda Chalker, in her former role of transport minister,

and Mr. William Waldegrave, the junior environment minister, have accepted car makers' estimates that to fit catalytic converters to clean up exhausts would cost between £400 and £600. The true cost would be less than £100, said Dr. Russell Jones.

American studies have shown that lung cancer rates in men are much higher in towns than rural areas, he said. Analysis of the U.S. data shows that approximately 12 per cent of lung cancer deaths are attributable to atmospheric pollution.

On that basis more than 3,000 of the 26,000 lung cancer deaths a year among men in England and Wales were caused by air pollution. Up to 70 per cent of hydrocarbons in cities come from car exhausts — The Guardian.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
1985 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

COUNTS THE WAY

Both vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH
♠ AK4
♥ KJ92
♦ AK
♣ 8652

WEST EAST
♠ QJ1085 ♠ 962
♥ 85 ♥ 73
♦ K10853 ♦ J974
♣ J ♣ K1097

SOUTH
♠ 73
♥ AQ1064
♦ 62
♣ AQ43

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3♦ Pass
3♦ Pass 4♦ Pass
4♦ Pass 4♦ Pass
4♦ Pass 6♦ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

The secret of success on many hands is keeping an accurate count. That is true both for declarer and the defenders. All East needed to find the winning defense here was to work out South's distribution. After South made a forcing jump in hearts, North cue-bid spades to show a maximum no trump bidding sequence then accounted for all the controls that South needed to give him a shot at the slam.

As the cards lie, a club lead would have left declarer with no chance for his contract. However, we would not have found that lead; our choice, too, would have been the queen of spades. Declarer won the king, drew trumps in two rounds, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. After cashing the ace-king of diamonds, declarer led a club from dummy.

East played second-hand low, and declarer followed with a low club. A surprised West found he had won a trick with the jack of clubs, but he did not relish having the lead. He chose a diamond. Declarer ruffed on the table while discarding a club from hand, and the club finesse landed the slam.

Declarer's line of play made his hand an open book. Since he could have ruffed a diamond on the board had he had another diamond, he had to have started with five hearts and four clubs.

If declarer's clubs were as good as the A-Q-J, he could make his slam by taking two finesses in the suit. Therefore, East should have based his defense on the premise that his partner held a singleton club honor. East could have taken his partner off the end play by inserting the king of clubs when that suit was led from dummy. No matter what declarer did now, there was no way he could avoid losing two club tricks for down one.